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...gives a voice to the new generation of library and information professionals. If you have any suggestions or topics for this column, please contact the column co-ordinators, Kate Davis, kdavis@nla.gov.au, or Naomi Doessel, naomiesd@yahoo.com.au.

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# The **world** as your **oyster**: Pursuing LIS **studies** overseas

If you've decided to continue studying in the LIS field, why not look at a school outside of Australia? Whilst the thought of moving overseas to study may seem daunting, it is in fact just a matter of research and being organised – two areas in which we (supposedly) excel. Here are a few tips on how to choose the right course for you.

The first step is to look at what is available both internationally and at home. A good place to start is <http://InformationR.net>. This site lists all the schools worldwide offering study in the Information Studies disciplines. The majority of schools now offer postgraduate studies in English but it is worth checking whether English is the instructional language for the entirety of the course or for only a certain number of subjects.

Consider your interests and the direction in which you wish to go within the LIS profession and see which schools most closely align with your chosen area. For example, the Royal School of Library and Information Science (RSLIS) in Copenhagen, Denmark, has a strong focus on theory and research. If you wish to gain a greater understanding of theories behind LIS activities, then this school is worth investigating. If your interests lie in management and the business aspects of the profession, the MBA with a specialisation in Information Systems at California State University may be a better match. Investigate the staff and areas of research emerging from the schools. I chose the RSLIS because of the strong research being conducted by a few staff members into infometrics, the area in which I wish to specialise.

Having reviewed the options made available by the school's online information, the next step is to make contact and ask questions – lots of questions. Most schools will have an international contact. The international office should reply promptly and be happy to answer any question put to them. If not, then reconsider the appeal of this school. Once you are 'in country' the international liaison will be your guide. If they cannot take the time to answer your questions when you're a prospective student then they will take even less interest once you have enrolled and handed over your money!

Consider the English proficiency of those you are in contact with. You are making a substantial investment, both financially and personally, in deciding to attend a foreign program, therefore you should ensure that you will get the best education possible. Your lecturers may be brilliant

and leaders in their field but if they cannot impart their knowledge in a language you understand then your investment will be a loss. If it's possible to contact the lecturers, or at least the course co-ordinator, do so. The more information you can gather the more likely you are to make the right decision.

Do not be afraid to ask questions, no matter how obvious or strange they may seem. You are considering moving to a foreign country which will have very different approaches towards culture, society, humour and language, so ensure you fully understand what is being offered and what expectations are held by both the school and yourself. And remember: you're not only in it to learn, but to have fun too!

Check out the next issue of newgradsnews where Patricia will investigate the aspects of funding an overseas study adventure.

**Patricia Hanrahan**



*'Nyhaun' Copenhagen, Denmark  
courtesy Cicero Kal-El*



*Imperial Palace, Tokyo, Japan*



*Yosemite National Park, California, USA*

*Having forsaken the sun and surf of the Sunshine Coast, Patricia is currently studying towards her MLIS at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark. She can be contacted at [phanrahan@gmail.com](mailto:phanrahan@gmail.com).*

*A big thanks from the co-ordinators to Patricia – she rewrote this article when her computer died!*