

American students Bond to the Coast

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by Jenny Rogers

THE Yanks are invading Bond University.

American students now comprise almost 25 per cent of Bond's student population of 2600.

Annual recruitment drives by Bond in the United States have seen the number of American students soar from 10 in 1989 to 600 this year.

Australia is now the second most requested destination for Americans who study abroad, second only to Europe, according to the Australian Education Office in Washington.

And Bond is reaping the economic benefits.

This year, American students accounted for \$5 million in tuition fees, or 10 per cent of Bond's total income.

"Of that, \$2.5 million goes to the School of Humanities and the rest across the remainder of the university, including a large chunk to business

studies," said the new Dean of Humanities, Professor Raoul Mortley. "We have found they have a huge interest in Australian Studies.

"So much so that we are about to make a number of new staff appointments to cope with that demand."

Professor Mortley, who was responsible for Bond's initial push into the American market, said the students made an enormous contribution to the university's cultural mix.

"We have had American presidents come to find out why so many of their students want to come here," he said.

"We have told them they should endorse their students' requests and that we look after them very well while they are here."

The American students come for three-month semesters in two intakes in January and September as part of

study-abroad programs.

And, while they put in the study hours, the Coast's beaches, weather and laid-back lifestyle are the big attraction.

Southern Californian Christy Forbes, 21, who is studying accounting at Chapman University in Orange County, said she had liked what she heard about Bond from fellow students who had been the year before.

"They said the people on the Gold Coast were really friendly, the students were friendly, the environment was a lot like home in southern California and the weather was great. They were right," she said.

"The beaches are fantastic and I get to escape winter at home."

Christy has been given a job in California by accounting giant Ernst and Young.

"But I'd come back to Australia in a minute. I'm going to tell everyone at home how great

this place is," she said.

"I've even met a family who want to cook me a Thanksgiving dinner."

New Yorker Sarah Pierpont, 21, who is studying for a business degree at the Wesleyan Private University in West Virginia, loves the Gold Coast lifestyle.

"I wanted an English-speaking country with nice weather and lots of beaches," she said.

"I love it here. I love how the people are so laid-back. It is such a change from New York, which is so fast-paced."

For Jon Mariano, 21, and Corey Harris, 21, of Chicago, both studying finance at Marquette University in Milwaukee, the lure was simple.

"I had heard the university was close by a beach called Surfers Paradise," said Jon.

For Corey, it was 'the great weather and the Australian girls'.

