

ACICIS
AUSTRALIAN CONSORTIUM FOR IN COUNTRY INDONESIAN STUDIES
Journalism Professional Practicum (JPP)

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Notes Regarding Study Assessment and Weighting

ACICIS is a non-profit consortium of 21 Australian and overseas universities. The students who participate in the JPP do not enroll in ACICIS in a formal sense. The students enroll in subjects/units/courses in their home universities; it is up to each of the home universities to decide how many subjects/units/courses worth of credit they will grant to students who participate in the JPP. ACICIS consulted a range of Journalism educators across Australia and followed their advice to design a program that most universities will consider the equivalent of three subjects/units/courses (i.e. three-quarters of a standard full-time semester).

Before arrival in Indonesia, students were encouraged to complete several pre-trip readings on Indonesian culture and media systems. On arrival in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, students undertook two weeks of intensive study of language, culture and politics. The total of these classes and the exam was 60 contact hours. For most universities, this is close to the contact hours normally involved in two subjects/units/courses. The students then undertook four-weeks of work placements in English-language news organisations. During this four-week period, students also attended regular 'checkpoint meetings' in which they met special political or media-industry figures and reflected on the linkages between the language and theory issues discussed in the first classes and the practical activities.

Individual universities may make their own recommendations to their students regarding assessment. ACICIS's general advice is that a suitable balance of assessment for students is as follows:

1. Attend classes on language, culture and society:

All students were required to attend an intensive program of lectures and workshops over a two-week period, unless health or other legitimate reasons prevented them from doing so. The program involved daily four-hour morning sessions of Indonesian language, plus daily afternoon seminars with local experts on Indonesian culture, politics, economics and media systems. Each of the afternoon seminar speakers provided preparatory readings for the students. There was a written exam plus assessable conversation activities for the language component. The JPP Project Officer has also provided a report on the students' participation in discussions and seminar activities to indicate the participants' recall, comprehension and ability to apply the concepts.

2. Internship placement:

Participants undertook a four-week placement in a newspaper, magazine, radio station, television station or online newsroom. They engaged in a range of journalistic activities that helped to develop their knowledge, insights and/or skills in journalism. The news organisation editors or supervisors also wrote a brief report on the students' activities and performance. Universities may also request a small portfolio showing the stories written, edited or broadcast.

3. Debriefing day

On the final day, participants discussed their experiences with the Project Officer and fellow Practicum members, reflecting on their experiences and the nature of journalism in Indonesia. Participants also had opportunities to evaluate the quality of the Practicum and offer suggestions for future improvement. A second, less formal party was conducted at the home of the Australian Embassy's Cultural Attaché, where students shared their experiences in a social atmosphere with the Australian Ambassador, leading Australian foreign correspondents and journalists from dozens of local news organisations. Individual universities may also require students to do a brief presentation to other students when they return home on the subject of their experiences.

Course coordinators who wish to discuss these activities further are welcome to contact the ACICIS JPP Project Officer, Ms Louise Williams, by email on Louise.Williams@unsw.edu.au or telephone on 02 9385 6986/0407061209.

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JOURNALISM PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM (JPP)

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REPORT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student name: XXX
Home university: University of ABC
Period of study: 4 January 2008 to 16 February 2008
Study option: Two weeks of intensive coursework at Atma Jaya Catholic University, Jakarta
Four weeks of internship/work placement in an English-language newsroom, Jakarta

Study undertaken at Atma Jaya Catholic University

XXX undertook two weeks of intensive introductory-level Indonesian language study at Atma Jaya Catholic University. Despite the concentrated nature of the study period, XXX mastered the basics of vocabulary and grammar. Within two weeks she could conduct simple conversations on topics of importance to a journalist (e.g. how to direct taxis, to make appointments with sources, etc.). In the final exam, XXX's mark of 85 per cent was in the high level of achievement among the JPP group. Her Atma Jaya teachers reported she was highly motivated and had worked very hard to learn basic grammar and improve her vocabulary.

The study at Atma Jaya included an afternoon series of seminars on the subjects of Indonesian history; contemporary politics; political institutions; race, religion and gender; economics and business; civil society; the cultural and entertainment industry; the environment, the role of the Indonesian media and ownership/legal structures affecting journalism. XXX's good record of attendance and her participation in ensuing discussions showed both a keen interest in and prior research into the major issues affecting Indonesia.

Placement activities

XXX undertook a four-week, work-experience placement with the Jakarta Post newspaper. The Jakarta Post has a well organized internship system, during which students are rotated between desks. XXX initially chose the World Desk, which gave her an opportunity to learn about the selection and editing of incoming foreign news and to participate in sub-editing. It also gave her a number of good opportunities to report on world issues while in Jakarta, such as an important conference on the Iran's nuclear program, the arrival of the Indian navy, and the local angle on US Super Tuesday. XXX's experience on the World Desk was so positive, that she chose to stay there, rather than transfer to a new desk at the rotation point mid way through the internship. XXX was able to produce a wide range of quality by-lined pieces while at the Jakarta Post, including one long interview comparing the Soekarno and Soeharto legacies. XXX's internship coincided with the death of former President Soeharto, and although she was not assigned to the National desk, she came into work to volunteer to do anything she could to help. XXX was one of the few journalists invited into the Soeharto family home where the former President's body was laid out, as dignitaries, family and friends paid their respects. XXX was at all time a positive and cheerful member of staff at the Jakarta Post, where she quickly earned the respect of her peers and the notice of editors.

Comments on individual achievement

XXX was a pleasure to have on the JPP. She showed a mature professional and personal attitude -- and a consistent good humour -- allowing her to get the most out of the JPP. She embraced a local lifestyle, living in a low cost boarding house and getting along with rudimentary Indonesian, with ease. She was consistently culturally sensitive and was polite, engaging and attentive throughout the course. XXX made a good impression on all those she met, both during the formal study session and her internship and demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm to learn about her host country. Her contribution to the final debriefing day indicates her flexibility, her ability to adjust to new environments and her capacity to think through problems and resolve them.

Evaluation*: SATISFACTORY

Certified By:

Date: 15 March 2008

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PP LOUISE WILLIAMS

Ms Louise Williams, Project Officer for the ACICIS Journalism Professional Practicum

**ACICIS assessment is on a pass/fail basis; 'satisfactory' only indicates achievement justifying three units (i.e. three-quarters of a semester of university credit). It is not a grading.*