

**ACICIS Student Survey Results  
Semester 24 January 2007 to June 2007**

At the completion of their semester all ACICIS students are invited to complete an anonymous online survey to provide feedback on their ACICIS experience. The results for Semester 24 were very pleasing, with very few negative comments. Overall, the results were a pat on the back for ACICIS employees, who work very hard to provide a safe and stimulating experience for ACICIS students.

The following questions in particular are very relevant to judging the success of the semester.

**General level of service provided by the ACICIS secretariat in Perth?**

Answer	Percent
Excellent	88%
Satisfactory	6%
Unspecified	6%

**General support provided by the Resident Director in Yogyakarta?**

Answer	Percent
Excellent	44%
Satisfactory	56%

**General support provided by the Indonesian ACICIS staff?**

Answer	Percent
Excellent	88%
Satisfactory	12%

**Overall worth of semester in Indonesia (in spite of any problems you may have had e.g. costs stress, workload)?**

Answer	Percent
Excellent	88%
Satisfactory	6%
Unspecified	6%

**Would you recommend ACICIS to other students at your university?**

Answer	Percent
Yes	100%

## Comments

- Best semester of my university life.
- Despite daily little problems (blackouts, viruses on usb sticks, harassment etc), the positive memories always stay, don't they?! Overall it's been a great learning experience and every negative experience helps in the end.
- Living in Indonesia is an amazing experience!
- If you're doing a BA Indonesian, even just as a joint degree, DO THE YEAR ABROAD!! you'd be crazy not to go
- I would definitely recommend acicis!
- It was a time to meet myself and grow up!
- An enjoyable and valuable opportunity vocationally and personally which ought not to be passed up.
- An incredible journey full of seemingly insurmountable challenges, and moments of great enjoyment. You learn a lot about yourself and appreciate another way of life.
- Even after 4 months of studying in Indonesia, I had no clue what I was getting myself into but now that I'm out, I realize how much I learned and how much I grew as a person.
- My experience in Yogyakarta has been full of whirlwind adventures, beautiful friends, creative and inspiring experiences- challenging but incredibly fulfilling times.
- It was the most amazing, worst, best, most satisfying, most frustrating, thing I have ever done. It was such a big challenge and nothing beats the sense of achievement on return.
- If you have the opportunity to do an ACICIS semester do it!
- you will learn a lot about YOURSELF, maybe the only time in your life you have the opportunity to see yourself in relation to the wider world
- The only negative aspect for me was the way in which women are treated by men in Indonesia. I found it hard to come to terms with the fact that I also had to be treated this way and I had no control to change it. This was the only negative thing from me. I loved being in Indonesia and I can't wait to go back.
- Despite the worst diarrhoea in history, stung with credit card fraud and having to fight the prospective 'pacar's off with a 10-foot pole, I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. ACICIS - Aku Cinta Indonesia Cinta Indonesia Sekali... as cheesy as it sounds... its true... awwwww...
- You will find a dictionary cannot clearly define nor translate all language, you must get out there and LIVE IT to understand what is really being said.
- I've pretty much been using Indonesian the whole time I've been here to the point that my English has become somewhat awkward! Indonesian feels quite natural to me now and not really a great effort- so my next challenge is Javanese.
- I have no regrets whatsoever!! Have learnt as much about myself as about Indonesia and its relations with Australia.
- Many people find that after doing the acicis program they would like to come back to Indonesia to find work; this was true for me too! And even for jobs in Europe, your acicis experience will give you extra credit
- I found it really, really hard in the first couple of weeks. It's really hot, everything smells different, and usually pretty bad. You get very tired and cranky easily because your senses are on alert from the start. Sometimes you have trouble sleeping over a mosque call.
- Leave your preconceptions at the airport. From queue courtesy to relationships, be prepared for totally different mindsets.
- Just remember that there is no perfect place in the world, every culture and country has its positives and negatives. So find out the positives and enjoy them all you can
- If you weren't born in Indonesia YOU'RE NOT AN INDONESIAN...accept the fact. Every situation offers a learning experience and no-one's saying they'll all be positive, learn from them!

- Keep an open mind. Your way is not the right way, it's just different. Try to laugh things off and keep light-hearted, expect mishaps and delays and lots of special 'bule' attention, so you don't get as frustrated or homesick. Make friends with Indonesians and SMILE, dong! Plant your seeds and water them in Indonesia, later you'll have flowers.
- It's tough at first, especially if you are a left hander. Being a foreigner gives you a certain amount of leniency though. You tend to get annoyed very easily. The general pace of life slows to a crawl as you realise that important tasks need to be done in the morning and finish late or the next day. To me, at times, they are incredibly lazy. You eventually get used to this and your life adjusts also. It's best to just take a step back and relax and embrace it.
- I went to Indonesia assuming that all people are essentially the same once you get over the language gap. I now realise this is not the case at all - Indonesians have a completely different sense of humour, a different value system and different ways of interacting with one another to Australians. Difference is great, but it does mean there are more barriers between communication and understanding than just language.
- Patience, understanding and deep-breathing and counting to 10 (or sometimes 100!) went a long way for me in cultural adjustment here! There are a lot of cultural differences here which I will never agree with and (hopefully) never understand. The big cities are not too bad, but I spent some time in little villages and in my opinion, women are definitely regarded as the lower species, which I could not describe how that makes me feel, and quite often I would feel they regarded me as how we perhaps would an animal in a zoo. Stared, pointed and yelled at constantly. But I also had to keep in mind, I nearly AM like another species to these people, who may in fact never have seen a white person, and usually (I can't say for all) most of the people don't understand that what they are doing is what would be considered rude in our society. So in regards to that, usually they are just very happy to see you, and don't realize that when they shout out at you, they are the millionth one in the last hour! And although often I feel like exploding at the teenage/younger guys here, well hey, I have also felt that way many times towards guys in different countries all over the world, not to mention Australia! I think what you have to remember is while there are a lot of things you may not agree with or understand, this IS a different culture to Australian culture, and you are in theirs. I have learnt to just try to keep laughing! On the other side to that, there are many aspects of this culture I feel the world would do well to take note of!
- Definitely worth doing. I've bankrupted myself, I've ruined all my clothes and shoes in rain and mud, I haven't had enough sleep in months but I have had the experience of a lifetime and met some of the most interesting people I could ever hope to!
- If there was an option higher than 'excellent' to tick for this question, I would choose that. I have had some absolutely terrible experiences here.., really strange illnesses and hospital visits, being ripped-off, exploited and abused because I am white, and even worse female!! Having to witness this scale of, no other way to say it but environmental disaster of a country, when we come from such an environmentally conscious one, poverty, children (actually anyone) living and begging on streets, to name a few. But if I could do it all again tomorrow, I would jump at the chance. I have experienced extremes of highs and lows here. As a whole, I feel these people are amazingly beautiful, the landscape and scenery can be breath-taking, and the lessons and self-development I have gained personally are more than worth (and a more often than not a result of) the bad times here. I have six weeks left here, and already I get teary thinking about leaving!
- Employers like that you can live independently overseas...
- I guess I wanted to learn as much as possible in terms of culture, history, politics, law and so on but also wanted to feel like I was doing something constructive in terms of helping other people. So I've ended up being extremely busy but also feel incredibly inspired and fulfilled. The one thing I haven't left enough time for is recording all the amazing experiences that I've had- I hope the next few weeks of holidays might give me the chance.
- I have high expectations. I did less work and had WAY more fun than expected.