

University of Missouri, United States July Print Media Short Course

This course was last updated on 4th February 2011 – details may change, please see Macquarie Abroad for the most up-to-date information

Overview

This program is specifically designed for print media students. Students will be immersed in the reporting and writing experience by doing an intensive 3-week course focused around the *Missourian* and *Vox* publications. Students will also visit the other University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism's working media outlets, including KOMU TV and KBIA radio stations.

The academic course will be complemented by a week-long excursion following the completion of the course to Washington, D.C. and New York. Students will visit prominent media outlets in each city, as well as participate in cultural activities.

The University of Missouri School of Journalism is consistently ranked as either the number 1 or number 2 journalism school in the USA and is recognised around the world as one of the best journalism schools anywhere.

The Columbia region

Columbia is a city of around 100,000 people, and is home to two colleges besides the University of Missouri. The small downtown area has many local shops, cafes, restaurants and bars. There are various parks, lakes and trails in and around the city, and summers tend to be hot, with an average temperature range in July of 19-31°C.

Student Profile

The program is targeted at third-year media students keen to develop their practical skills in print media production.

Topics

- Reporting at the *Missourian* – print media orientation session, then morning meetings with stories being written during the afternoons, edited by the course tutor
- Convergence Journalism – digital media/convergence portion of the program, including Multimedia 'Boot Camp' using the Futures Lab in the new Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) held on the second weekend of the program (introduction to the equipment on Friday, story shooting on Saturday, presenting on Sunday)
- Communication Practice – this will encompass the NY/DC portion of the program and will conclude with a paper which will be assessed by Missouri School of Journalism

Outcomes

- Completion of a 3cp 300-level MAS unit whilst on exchange
- Cross-cultural perspective on media whilst studying at one of the world's most prestigious journalism institutions
- Cultural appreciation of the USA

Student Numbers

A maximum of 12 Macquarie students can participate on the course.

Program Dates

29th June – 30th July 2011

Accommodation and Costs

Student accommodation in Columbia will be offered, including two meals per day. All other accommodation on the trip is included as part of the logistics fee, including the one-week trip to New York and Washington DC.

Students will have access to all on-campus facilities including library, recreational sports centre, computer labs and wireless internet on campus.

Cultural Components

A number of cultural activities, such as 4th July celebrations, visits to the Gateway Arch and internationally renowned zoo in St. Louis, and a Kansas City Royal's baseball game will be offered.

In the last week of the program, interstate trips will be organised to Washington, D.C. and New York. Each trip lasts for three days and three nights, and includes transportation and accommodation, visits to media outlets, and a museum/cultural activity in each city.

Proposed Itinerary

The program is essentially an intensive, full-time period of study and immersion into print journalism. Significant events taking place during the program (all dates and events provided as a guide and may be subject to change):

- Wednesday, June 29th: Arrive in STL before 7:30pm
- Thursday, June 30th: Check into MU student housing, campus orientation, international student check-in
- Friday, July 1st: On-campus classes begin
- Monday, July 4th: Independence Day holiday (fireworks & barbeque hosted by faculty – tentative)
- Friday, July 15th: Media & cultural excursion to Kansas City
- Saturday, July 23rd: Cultural excursion to St. Louis (optional)
- Sunday, July 24th: Depart for Washington DC (plane)
- Wednesday, July 27th: Depart DC for New York (train)
- Friday, July 29th: Program concludes (final media tours)
- Saturday, July 30th: Check-out of housing in New York

Successful applications will be provided with a confirmed itinerary closer to the starting date of the program.

Assignment and Assessment

Assessment will be handled by the professors at the Missouri School of Journalism as noted in the 'topics' section above.

The program is graded by the University of Missouri, on the U.S. "A-F" grading scale. However, grades will show as 'Satisfactory' or 'Fail' on students' Macquarie transcripts. Students' GPAs do not change whilst participating on the exchange program provided a 'Satisfactory' mark is achieved.

Credit

The course has been pre-approved as a 3cp 300-level MAS elective course by the Media Department at Macquarie. All students must be enrolled in an appropriate exchange unit for credit for this program. Enrolment advice will be given at the appropriate time to successful applicants.

Academic support – mentors and academic accompaniment

There will be no Macquarie academic participation in the program. However, Macquarie academics and general staff have visited the journalism school in the past and have been impressed by the high standard found there. The program has been agreed with the consultation of Associate Professor John Potts.

Costs

The logistics fee will be in the region of AUD\$3,700. Thanks to the strength of the Australian dollar and the efforts of our colleagues at the School of Journalism, we anticipate the 2011 program being offered at the lowest price at which we have ever been able to offer this program. The actual cost will be confirmed when applications are accepted; however, AUD\$3,700 is the maximum amount students can expect to pay for the program.

The logistics fee includes all accommodation, two meals per day in Columbia, cultural activities, airport pickups and drop offs, travel to Washington DC and New York (by airplane and train respectively), hotels in both those cities, and a USA Lonely Planet.

Students should note that this logistics fee does **not** include:

- Airfare to and from the USA (\$2,500 - \$3,000 depending on the airline and time of booking)
- Cost of enrolment at Macquarie (no tuition is paid to University of Missouri-Columbia; regular enrolment fees are charged at Macquarie and can be deferred to HECS or paid upfront as usual)
- Living expenses whilst on the program

Students should also note that the logistics fee must be paid in full by the deadline given to successful applicants. This date is expected to be in mid-April. Students cannot defer the cost of the logistics fee to HECS, it must be paid upfront. Should students withdraw from the program after the payment deadline they may not receive a full refund of their logistics fee.

Application Process and Deadline and Selection Criteria

Students must apply, online, to Macquarie Abroad no later than Friday 25th March 2011. The

application form, and instructions, are available online at www.international.mq.edu.au/goingabroad

Successful students will then be guided through the rest of the application process for the University of Missouri. Complete application instructions for the University of Missouri are available online at <http://journalism.missouri.edu/study-abroad/incoming-exchange-students.html>.

Visas

Students are required to independently seek information about visas for the USA. Documents required for students to apply for a visa will be provided by the University of Missouri. Macquarie International cannot advise students on the visa application process. For information, students should contact the Consulate General of the USA: <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/sydney/index.html>.

Evaluation

Students will be required to complete an online evaluation for Macquarie International before grades from Missouri can be transferred back to Macquarie. Students may also be required to undertake evaluations from the University of Missouri. More information about evaluation of the program will be distributed to students prior to the conclusion of the course.

Travel Grant

The travel grant for this program has been confirmed at \$1,500. This grant is guaranteed for all students accepted to participate on the program – no other institution in Australia offers this level of support and Macquarie University is pleased to be able to support students in this way.

Travel Insurance

Macquarie students participating on official exchange programs are now covered by the university's corporate travel insurance policy and generally do not need to purchase their own travel insurance. Information on the policy will be given at the information sessions once places are confirmed. Students are required to consider whether the policy offered suits their needs, and will be required to show proof of purchase for suitable alternative insurance should the Macquarie insurance not suit their needs.

Contacts

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