University of Missouri-Columbia, United States
December-January Print Media Short Course

This course was last updated on August 13, 2007 – 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 focussed around the Missourian and Vox publications. Students will also visit the other Missouri School of Journalism’s working media outlets, including KOMU TV and KBIA radio stations.

The academic course will be complemented by a week 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 partake in cultural activities.

The University of Missouri – Columbia is consistently ranked as either the no.1 or no.2 journalism school in the USA and is recognised around the world as one of the top journalism schools anywhere.

Student Profile
The program is targeted at media students keen to develop their practical skills in print media production.

Topics
- Reader’s wheel: Identifying stakeholders and following them into stories
- Leads, nut graf, budget lines, news blasts
- Interviewing
- Finding information and using it (safely) from the Web
- Framing stories
- Introduction to computer-assisted reporting
- Story structure and organization
- Visual storytelling

Outcomes
- Completion of a 3 cp of 200 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 20 Macquarie students can participate on the course.

Program Dates
December 15\textsuperscript{th} - January 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2008.
Accommodation and Costs

Accommodation will be in a shared room (2 students per room) in a hotel in downtown Columbia. All accommodation on the trip is included as part of the logistics fee – including when on field trips and the 1 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 will also be included in the program.

These include social events, a welcome lunch and farewell party, an Amish Country visit, and two interstate trips.

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

Proposed Itinerary

Arrival: Students should arrive on Saturday December 15th into St. Louis Lambert airport (STL) between the hours of 1pm-5pm. A two-hour shuttle from the airport to the Columbia hotel will be arranged.

Departure: The program will end on Saturday January 12. Students will need to route their flight back home from New York. They can elect to stay longer or continue their travel independently from the program if they desire.

Assignment and Assessment

Assessment will be handled by the professors at the University of Missouri. Information about the assessment will be available in advance in November.

The program is ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Fail’. Students’ GPAs do not change whilst participating on the exchange program.

Credit

The course has been pre-approved as a 3cp 200 level MAS elective course by the Media Department at Macquarie. All students must be enrolled for credit for this program.

Academic support – mentors and academic accompaniment

This is not confirmed at this stage – a decision on academic accompaniment is usually made around the end of October. Macquarie academics and general staff have visited the journalism school in the past and have been impressed by the high standard found there.

Costs

Logistics fee is $4110. This logistics fee includes all accommodation, breakfasts, cultural activities, airport pickups and drop offs, 3 day trip to New York, 3 day trip to Washington DC, welcome and farewell events, pre-departure events, pre-departure pack and USA Lonely Planet.
Students should expect, as a guide, at least the following expenses:

- Airfare - $2500-3000 depending on the time of booking
- Travel insurance - around $300

Cost of any enrolment at Macquarie (no tuition is paid to University of Missouri-Columbia, regular enrolment fees are charged at Macquarie and can be put on HECS or paid upfront as usual)

**Application Process and Deadline and Selection Criteria**
Students must apply, online, to Macquarie Abroad no later than the 1st of September, 2007. The application form, and instructions, are available online at [www.international.mq.edu.au/goingabroad](http://www.international.mq.edu.au/goingabroad)

Successful students will then be guided through the rest of the application process for the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Visa**
Students are required to independently seek information about visas for the USA. Australian citizens may be eligible to enter the US under the visa waiver program – however, this is not recommended by Macquarie University as students will be undertaking a study program whilst in the USA. Macquarie cannot advise students on the visa application process, you must go through the Consulate General for the US [http://canberra.usembassy.gov/sydney/index.html](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 as well. 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 $2000. 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 students are extremely fortunate to have access to this funding.

**The Columbia region**
Columbia is a city slightly under 100,000 in population and is home to two colleges besides the University of Missouri-Columbia. The small downtown area is adorned with local shops, cafes, restaurants and bars. Citizens enjoy various parks, lakes and trails throughout all four seasons year round, but winters can be very cold, seeing some snow and ice.

**Students should direct initial enquiries to:**
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Contact at Missouri: Margaret Costa – Study Abroad Advisor