PACE International
A PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE
Philippines (January–February 2011)
BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Be part of a reciprocal learning experience that will broaden your perspective
- Enhance your employability as you build on your problem-solving, communication and leadership skills
- Learn the language and immerse yourself in the culture
- Work alongside local staff and volunteers and learn from those who strengthen community based initiatives
- Appreciate global issues from a different standpoint
- Be part of a diverse team and meet friends from different nationalities and degrees
- Go through a full learning cycle from pre-departure sessions to re-entry activities
- Receive a Macquarie University Certificate upon completion of the program

ABOUT THE HOST ORGANISATION:

Participants will work with our partner organisation in the Philippines, Bahay Tuluyan (meaning: “House of Welcome”). Bahay Tuluyan is a highly respected local non-government organisation working to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children in the Philippines. The mission of Bahay Tuluyan is to develop the inherent capabilities of children in need of special protection to enable them to become productive, self-reliant, socially responsible and nurturing members of society. Through the use of the child-to-child approach in providing alternative education, Bahay Tuluyan’s work extends to community education and training programs, research and social analysis.

This seven-week placement with Bahay Tuluyan, a leading Filipino Child Rights Organisation, will provide you with the opportunity to learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, while gaining practical experience working on youth empowerment projects with Filipino children in need of special protection.

You will join a select team of 10 students to live and work alongside youth leaders and children at Bahay Tuluyan’s residential centres. You will also have the opportunity to homestay with a Filipino family and to learn Tagalog, the local language.

Don’t miss this opportunity to participate in a cross-cultural learning experience!
PROGRAM STRUCTURE
All participants will attend two compulsory group pre-departure training sessions to meet fellow team members and to obtain important information about the in-country activities. You will also participate in an online pre-departure training session to familiarise yourself with the issues and culture you will encounter during the program. You will have the opportunity to share and discuss your project at a debriefing session and a welcome back function.

Participants will work in small teams. The specific details of the project activities in December are currently being finalised. However, there is some information below about the work of previous Macquarie volunteer groups and possible project activities.

Projects may also include small scale construction and renovation work to improve children’s facilities.

Children’s Congress
The Children’s Congress brings together 100 young people from all ‘barangays’ in town for a two day workshop and forum that aims to give youth a chance to participate and express their voice, increase young people’s knowledge about child rights and issues and provide an opportunity for young people to share their views with local government. The Congress will develop an action plan for each local government and barangay.

Children’s Life Books and Photos
Assist in creating books of memories for children in the Bahay Tuluyan Centres, including compiling photo CDs for the children to keep. This offers the opportunity to work very closely and develop friendships with the children at the residential centres.

Job Preparedness Training
Working with older children (15–19 years), on job preparation skills including resume writing, creating an email account, job searching and practicing for interviews.

Painting, Renovations, and Gardening
Helping out with minor jobs around the centres such as painting, repairs, gardening etc (as needs exist and skills match)

Teaching Art, Music, Sports and Computers
Providing classes for children in centres, schools and community – according to skills and initiative.

COSTS
The program fee includes:
• Health and police checks
• Travel insurance
• Pre-departure briefings
• Airport transfers
• In-country orientation
• Shared accommodation
• All meals at guest house or residential centres
• Transport to and from project sites
• Homestay with a local family
• Project activity costs.

You will be responsible for the Program Fee:
Between AUD$2,500–AUD$3,500

Plus other travel expenses including:
• International return flights
• Visa
• Vaccinations
• Optional activities and incidental expenses

Other costs you may incur include: phone calls, laundry, and spending money. These costs will vary depending on your individual needs.

Participation Grant
A participation grant of AUD$1,500 will be given to eligible Macquarie University students who have been accepted into the program.

SELECTION CRITERIA
• Academic Standing (minimum GPA of 2.0)
• Cross cultural sensitivity and relevant experience
• Commitment and initiative
• Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
• Patience and understanding of local work ethics and practices
• Motivated, adaptable, and flexible to change
ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Accommodation
In Manila, Quezon and Laguna provinces, students will be staying in dormitory style accommodation. During your orientation in Manila, you will have the opportunity to homestay with a local Filipino family for a truly enriching cultural experience.

Food
The primary Filipino diet consists of fish or pork, with rice. While they do not generally eat a lot of vegetables, vegetarians will be well catered for. The local markets will provide the best selection of eggs, bread as well as tropical fruits and vegetables to sustain a healthy diet.

Climate
The Philippines has two seasons: dry and wet. The dry (cooler) season generally runs from November to May and the wet (hotter) season from June to October.

The hottest month in the lowland regions is May, with temperatures reaching 38°C. The cooler months are December and January, with temperatures of 25°C. Students however, should factor in the high humidity levels, which tend to make it much hotter.

Refund Policy
PACE International will be monitoring travel advice from the Australian Government in the Philippines, in the event that safety conditions change. Program fees paid will be refunded if the program is cancelled; this decision is at the discretion of Macquarie University. Should a chosen participant decide to withdraw, their program fee will be forfeited owing to the short timeframe between participant selection, invoice payments and the start of the program. A full refund policy will be provided upon selection into this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are open to all Macquarie University students who meet the selection criteria and who apply by the closing date of Friday, 10th September 2010.

Application Forms are available at the following link:
www.international.mq.edu.au/paceinternational

Participants will be selected based on their responses in the Application Form and an interview.

All participants will need to make the appropriate arrangements to arrive in the Philippines before program commencement.

Further enquiries:
Email: paceinternational@mq.edu.au
Phone: 02 9850 9927

Pace International is jointly managed by Macquarie University and Australian Volunteers International. PACE International offers students a unique opportunity to actively contribute to more just, inclusive and sustainable societies through activities with communities and organisations overseas.