

STUDY ABROAD + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Enhance and enrich your Study Abroad experience with volunteer service.

THE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

The semester-long Study Abroad program consists of 2-3 elective units (subjects), in addition to which you may enrol in the Community Engagement unit. The unit combines lectures and a 90 hour placement in a not-for-profit community organisation.

Put theory into practice by interacting with the local community through volunteer work, and add value to your Study Abroad experience.

The Community Engagement unit is offered in partnership with ACU's Institute for Advancing Community Engagement (IACE).

VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT

Once you are accepted into the Study Abroad program and the Community Engagement unit, our professional staff arrange a volunteer placement with a local not-for-profit company. If a suitable placement can not be sourced, or is not suitable, please be advised that you will only complete the study component at ACU and take a full load of classes.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACU has a distinctive mission, "to make a specific contribution to its local, national and international communities". The Institute for Advancing Community Engagement (IACE) has been established to advance the development of mutually beneficial and sustainable community engagement.

Community engagement is the process through which the University brings the capabilities of its staff and students to work collaboratively with community groups and organisations - to achieve mutually agreed upon goals. Community engagement provides access to vital resources, improves well-being, and produces just and sustainable outcomes in the interests of people and their communities, in the hope of a better tomorrow.

IACE's focus on community engagement is embodied in the Beyond Today agenda, which aims to create a sense of real hope and belief in a better tomorrow. The three key themes that IACE focuses on are:

Beyond Disadvantage - reaching out to disadvantaged and marginalised people in our society and those in need
Beyond Borders - participating in action for change beyond our national boundaries
Beyond Differences - promoting community engagement enriched by inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding.

Location:	Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne
Duration:	Semester - includes 3 weeks of lectures + 90 hour placement
Fees:	www.acu.edu.au/international/59750
Unit Value:	10 credit points
When:	Semester 1 and 2

Credit Transfer:

The final result from the unit will appear on your official ACU academic transcript at the completion of the program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT OUTLINE

Unit Code: UNIV100
Unit Title: Community Engagement: A Transformational Process
Credit Points: 10
Pre-requisites: Nil

DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces international students to the concept of community engagement and involves them in a structured experience of community engagement through a placement in a not-for-profit community organisation. From a strong understanding of the principles which ground respectful and mutually beneficial engagement, students will be guided in the use of the Cardijn model of See-Judge-Act as a foundation for their placement. Documenting and reflecting on their experience will be a significant component of the student's learning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this unit the students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the principles and practice of community engagement
2. appreciate the insights of their own faith tradition and the heritage of the Christian gospel and Catholic Social Teaching as platforms for community engagement

3. identify and analyse important contextual factors which influence the work of their host community organisation
4. explain and apply the See-Judge-Act model as a pathway to personal and social transformation
5. attend to, document and reflect upon their own practice of community engagement in the context of their placement.

UNIT CONTENT

- Effective study and community engagement in Australian contexts
- Principles and practice of Community Engagement
- Respect for human dignity
- Mutuality and reciprocity
- Forging partnerships for transformation
- The Cardijn model of See-Judge-Act
- Community Engagement as a response to the insights of various faith traditions, with special reference to the Christian gospel and Catholic Social Teaching
- Identifying structural and cultural factors in community engagement contexts
- Reflective practice as an integral component of community engagement

UNIT STRUCTURE

30 contact hours across the semester.

90 hours of placement in a not-for-profit community organisation.

Mentoring by staff of the host organisation and staff of ACU's Institute for Advancing Community Engagement.

ASSESSMENT

A range of assessment procedures will be used to meet the unit objectives consistent with Faculty assessment requirements. Such procedures may include essays, assignments, a reflective journal, a report on the outcomes of the placement and an assessment of performance by the host not-for-profit community organisation.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND REFERENCES

Aslin, H.J. & Brown, V.A. (2004) *Towards Whole of Community Engagement: A Practical Toolkit*. Canberra: Murray-Darling Basin Commission

Himes, K. (ed) (2005) *Modern Catholic Social Teaching* Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press

Scottish Centre for Regeneration, Communities Scotland (2004) *Creating a Learning Landscape: A Skills Framework for Community Regeneration*
http://www.ce.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/scrcs_006559.pdf



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