

HAWTHORN

N E T W O R K

NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HAWTHORN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
CENTRES NETWORK

NEW INTERNSHIPS OFFER REAL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

VANCOUVER

Students seeking real-world business work experience as part of their English language studies now have the opportunity to combine Business English studies with an internship. Hawthorn-Vancouver (Canada Language Centre) has launched the program as part of its new, full-time Business English curriculum.

'The program has been developed to the high standard you expect from all our offerings,' says Craig Stusiak, President of Hawthorn-Vancouver. 'We now have a conditional offer pathway and the program is already generating new enrolments.'

The Centre has partnered with a leading local company that specialises in internship placements in Vancouver. This ensures students enjoy a successful transfer into a rewarding placement. Practical work experience in an English-speaking business environment means students have something tangible to offer prospective employers.

The Internship Program consists of one to six months of full-time English studies at Hawthorn-Vancouver followed by the internship. The English component must comprise a minimum of 50 per cent of the Internship Program, and students are expected to achieve an

English proficiency of TOEFL 520, TOEIC 750, FCE, BEC 1 or equivalent to be eligible to participate in the internship component of the program.

Prior to entering an internship, students will receive language training, counselling and placement support to ensure a successful transition into the Canadian business environment. The program tries to match students with the best placement. Although the program cannot guarantee placement in a specific company or industry, the experience gained in working in a business environment is easily transferable to a student's desired career path.

The course is designed to help students to:

- develop the ability to conduct business in English in a professional manner,
- gain valuable practical work experience,
- experience North American business culture,
- increase confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in a business situation.

For more information contact info@hawthornenglish.ca



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MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY PRIVATE

SIGHTSEEING IN SENTOSA

SINGAPORE

The world-renowned Sentosa resort provided Hawthorn-Singapore students a glimpse of the island-state's history and incredible cultural diversity. The island lies just off the main island of Singapore and is connected by road and cable car.



Living history: students at the Sentosa museum where they learned about Singapore's historical and cultural heritage during a visit to the resort.

Students took a walk through history in Sentosa museum's multi-media exhibition, where they met some of Singapore's most prominent historical icons. Next stop: Fort Siloso, which was built by the British to defend Keppel Harbour in the 1880s. The students learned how the Japanese invaded and occupied the city-state in 1942. Winston Churchill described the fall of Singapore as Britain's worst-ever military defeat. The assertion by one witty soccer fan that this honour belongs to England's World Cup defeat on penalties to Germany fell on deaf ears, though. After lunch it was straight off to the beach for a relaxing swim.

A great time was had by all and such is the variety of attractions on the island, Sentosa will feature in future SCOPE projects both sporting and cultural.



Life's a beach: it's not all hard work studying history. The day ended with a swim at the beach and Wang Huan from China climbing palm trees.



STAFF PROFILE...

SINGAPORE

Stephen Gill

Director of Studies

Never one to sit still, Steve has managed to combine soccer, freelance writing and teaching with a globe-trotting lifestyle. A native of Liverpool, he has taught in England, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, the Bahamas and Australia.

His love of soccer and his skills as a freelance writer and publicist landed him a job in Brunei Darussalam marketing the Brunei National Football Team. A new television sports program and football magazine followed. He has also written three English readers.

'My teaching career to date has led to a passionate interest in foreign languages and cultures and I take a keen interest in sports photography too,' says Steve.

Steve brings his experience in teacher training, marketing English courses, syllabus design and curriculum development to his new role as Director of Studies at Hawthorn-Singapore. He is also running the SCOPE program. No doubt it won't be long before the Hawthorn-Singapore soccer team is launched.



STAFF PROFILE...

AUCKLAND

Moana Sesoni

Admissions Officer

Hawthorn Centres seem to run on people with inexhaustible energy. Moana Sesoni is one of them. Born on the Pacific island of Niue, Moana has spent the past twelve years living in New Zealand and has been working at Hawthorn-Auckland since its opening in 2000.

She works closely with agents, ensuring that student enrolments and registrations go smoothly. Then she makes sure that students are fully informed and prepared for their first day at the Centre. Never seen

without her glowing smile, Moana is always on hand to help students with any problems or enquiries.

As if her full-time role as Admissions Officer were not enough, Moana is also active with after-school activities. She regularly takes students for Pacific Island Weaving SCOPE, where she teaches students the traditional craft of weaving flax to make baskets, bags and hats. And there's more! Moana is the very proud mother of five children, the youngest of whom is just six months old.

ACCUPLACER TEST PILOT

VANCOUVER



Testing times: twenty students from Hawthorn-Vancouver took place in a pilot run of the ACCUPLACER test.

Hawthorn-Vancouver and the University College of the Cariboo conducted a pilot test of the ACCUPLACER in April. The aim of the pilot was to see how well the test could be delivered away from the college.

The ACCUPLACER was developed, standardised and validated by the College Board, a division of the Educational Testing Service, which also administers the SAT, GRE, and TOEFL tests. The system is used by a number of tertiary institutions in Canada and the US to provide placement, advisement and guidance information.

The University College of the Cariboo is increasingly using the

ACCUPLACER as a tool for placing ESL students, and is investigating the benefits of offering the test at different locations.

Delivered via computer, it tests specific skill areas of listening, writing and language. It is adaptive, so the level of question difficulty is adjusted based on the correctness of a student's previous response. The twenty students who took part also had an oral interview conducted by the University College of the Cariboo's test administrators.

The participating students found the feedback that they received from the ACCUPLACER and the oral interviews were very useful for their English language study.

HOT SUMMER FOR HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

VANCOUVER

The High School Preparation Program offers a full-time intensive summer program at Hawthorn-Vancouver this year.

With increased numbers of international students attending both public and private high schools in Canada, demand for a high school preparation program has risen. Hawthorn-Vancouver offered a successful preparation program last year that consisted of general English classes in the morning and specialised academic preparation in the afternoon.

For 2004, the High School Preparation Program has been expanded into a full-time program. Students develop both their English and academic skills enabling them to successfully integrate into the Canadian education system. Classes will focus on English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills taught through content-based materials.

The program has been developed to expose students to topics they will encounter once in the Canadian education system. It is designed for students who have a minimum of an upper beginner level of English. The regular Youth Program remains a popular choice for students who want to improve their general English skills before returning home to their own countries to continue at school.

For more information contact info@hawthornenglish.ca



Summer intensive: the High School Preparation Program is offered as a full-time intensive course this year.

STAFF PROFILE...

MUSCAT



Lakshmi

Administrative support

Lakshmi's remarkable memory has made her something of a star at Hawthorn-Muscat. 'She has an amazing ability to remember students' names,

where they come from, even their phone numbers,' says Joan Boyer, Director of Studies. 'She often helps me out of tight situations!'

Born in Kerala in India, Lakshmi moved to Muscat with her family when she was six years old. She has been working at Hawthorn-Muscat for over a year now. 'This is the best job I have ever had,' she says.

'Each task is a challenge and I try my best to meet it before the deadline.'

'The students are very friendly and they call me their "problem solver". I make it a point to remember their names, so that when I speak to them I can address them by their name and that makes them elated. I enjoy speaking to them and helping them when they need any assistance.'

HISTORY IN ACTION

EDINBURGH

All the SCOPE activities at Hawthorn-Edinburgh are linked to students' English lessons. They provide an excellent opportunity to put new language skills into action in an authentic anglophone environment. Students recently visited New Lanark. This was a mill town in the 1800s and was famous for the liberal working conditions employees benefited from and the free schooling their families enjoyed. Students also had the chance to stroll along the river to the Falls of Clyde in a conservation area maintained by the New Lanark Conservation Trust.



Ghost of education past: teacher, Alison McKnight (third back on the right) and Hawthorn students, find out what a Victorian classroom was like at the Robert Owens school in New Lanark.

The Falls of Clyde are part of the conservation area surrounding the historic town of New Lanark.



VOCATIONAL 'TASTER' A BIG HIT

AUCKLAND

During their spring break, a group of students from Saitama Women's Junior College visited Hawthorn-Auckland for the second time, for a four-week English program. They were given an insight into a wide variety of occupations including fashion design, childcare, flight attendance and hotel management.



Sampling: the vocational 'taster' program gives students work experience in a number of occupations. The flight attendant component was very popular.

All participants enjoyed the program, but the young ladies particularly enjoyed the flight attendant component. The one-day program included instruction on making public announcements, serving food and beverages, emergency procedures, dressing, hairstyling and applying make-up.

After their return to Japan, the principal of Hawthorn-Melbourne, Ben Stubbs, visited them and spoke at their graduation ceremony.



STUDENT PROFILE...

AUCKLAND



Jorge Bernades
Paraguay

Jorge came to Hawthorn-Auckland six months ago, on the recommendation of his agent. He was looking for an English language school in New Zealand that was well-established, with good facilities and a network in other countries. 'I found what I was looking for and more,' he says.

'I would recommend Hawthorn-Auckland to other international students. The first reason is very obvious. The quality of the programs and lessons is very good, and the teachers are professional, enthusiastic and a lot of fun. Secondly, it feels like a family here. All the teachers and administration staff know the names of the students and I always feel like I have a lot of support.'

Jorge feels the SCOPE activities were just as important as his studies. He's tried most things from pronunciation classes to social clubs, soccer and swimming. 'I have made so many great memories here, it's difficult to leave, so I know I will come back again some day.'

TELCO TRAINS IN REPORT WRITING

MUSCAT

Thirteen students from Omantel (Oman Telecommunications Company) graduated recently from their six-week semi-intensive course in business report writing.

They are all very busy, high-level staff at the company. While they found it difficult to leave their duties to come to class, they appreciated the opportunity to upgrade their report writing skills. The final assessment task—to identify an issue in their department which could be improved or resolved—produced some high-quality and well-researched reports says the course instructor Lauren Granger Brown.



Skills in business writing are in growing demand. Staff of Omantel who graduated from a recent course with teacher, Lauren Granger Brown (centre) and Director of Studies, Joan Boyer (far right).

Business writing is an area of growing demand in Muscat. Hawthorn-Muscat has conducted similar courses for the Bank of Dhofar and the Ministry of Regional Municipality. Discussions are now under way with a number of banks and companies who are interested in improving the writing skills of their senior staff.

CONVERSATION CLUB CHATS INTO 17TH YEAR

MELBOURNE



'Meeting the natives' is an important way to develop new language skills. For the last sixteen years Hawthorn-Melbourne students have been able to meet Australians at a Friday evening conversation club sponsored by a local church.

Most of the locals involved are mature-aged including one very active 98-year-old who is very popular with the students. Each friendly evening may include playing games like Scrabble followed by supper. Students and locals become firm friends and picnics and other weekend social events develop from the club. They have even given students help



STUDENT PROFILE...

MUSCAT

Mohammed Salim Al Abri
Oman

'No pain, no gain' is Mohammed's motto. Sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education, he is working hard on the 22-week Academic English/IELTS preparation course. Mohammed wants a good IELTS result so he can complete his masters and PhD in mathematics in the future.

A resident of Al Rustaq, an area about 155 km west of Muscat where his family has a farm, Mohammed lives with other ministry staff in a hostel in Muscat while he is on the course and returns home some weekends.

How does he feel about his experience at Hawthorn-Muscat? 'Fantastic! I am very lucky to have such an excellent teacher as Sandra and I know I have gained enormous benefit. My evening class is also great. All of the Hawthorn teachers are very, very good.'

Likewise, the teachers are delighted with Mohammed's diligence and progress. He came into the course with a pre-intermediate level and, in order to progress as quickly as possible, he attends the five-hour morning class then returns in the evening for another two-and-a-half-hour General English class. We certainly expect that Mohammed will reap the results of the pain!

English for fun: a local conversation club gives Hawthorn-Melbourne students a chance to practise English in a social setting.

with blocked pipes, shifting furniture and other assorted requests.

The church embraces many nationalities including a group of sixty people from Korea. The service is conducted in both English and Korean simultaneously, and many nationalities come together for morning tea afterwards.

FOR AULD LANG SYNE

EDINBURGH

Getting to know the locals is always part of the Hawthorn experience. Poet, Robert Burns, can truly claim to be Scotland's tilt at taking over the world with his famous song "For Auld Lang Syne," and students got to know him at Burns Night.

This is a chance for students to delve into Celtic history and culture. Born in 1759, Burns' language was, of course, very different from modern standard English ('the de'il's tongue' according to Burns). But the students relish the chance to find out more about their host nation's past and are always up for the challenge of pronouncing (and even understanding) the romantic writer's dialect.



Sampling the local culture must include food and drink, and as whisky is Scotland's national drink, the Whisky Heritage Centre on the Royal Mile is the place to go to find out all about the processes involved in its production.

(Left) The nose knows: Emi Sasago of Japan samples the local tippie at the Whisky Heritage Centre.

(Below) Hawthorn bards: Husain Murad (left) and Adam Dabaiba recite some of their own Scots poetry in the spirit of Burns night.



DISCOVERY WEEK

MELBOURNE



Discovering Melbourne: agents from Latin America, China, India, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Indonesia and Sri Lanka saw first-hand what Hawthorn-Melbourne offers as part of the University of Melbourne's Discovery Week.

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