





# Acicis Course Outline

Agriculture Semester Program



### **List of Contents**

Program Details	3
Contact Details	4
Description	5
Academic Supervision	5
Structure and Schedule of Learning Activities	5
ASP Professional Placement	6
Selecting the Placement Selection	7
Educational Principles and Graduate Attributes	7
Learning Outcomes	7
Teaching and Learning Strategies	9
Evaluation	9
Attendance	9
Assessment	10
Assessment Components	10
Assessment Component Details	11
Award of Grade for the unit	15
Appendix I: ASP Professional Placement Work Plan	16
Appendix II: ASP professional Placement Report Structure	17
Appendix III: Marking Rubrics	19
ASP Professional Placement	19
ASP Final Presentation	21



## Acicis 2025 Agriculture Semester Program: Course Outline

#### **Program Details**

Title	Acicis Agriculture Semester Program						
Dates	Semester One: January– June Semester Two: August – January	Credit Points	Recommended equivalency: 100% of a full semester load (0.5 EFTSL). Actual subject weighting and academic credit awarded to be determined by a student's home university.				
Location	Bogor, Indonesia	Mode	Off-Campus				



#### **Contact Details**

Program Facilitator	Acicis
Website	http://www.acicis.edu.au
Perth Office	Acicis Secretariat
Email	enquiries@acicis.edu.au
Phone Number	+61 8 6488 6675
Program Assistant	TBC
Email	TBC
Acicis Resident Director	Dr Adrian Budiman
Email	a.budiman@acicis.edu.au
Phone Number	+62 274 561 477
	Total semester time commitment: Approximately 664 hours
Contact hours	Approximately 168 hours of lectures, laboratory exercises, and practicums Approximately 336 of independent study (reading, assignments, and group work) Approximately 160 hours professional placement
Online program description	https://www.acicis.edu.au/programs/semester/agriculture-semester- program-asp/



#### **Description**

The Agriculture Semester Program (ASP) allows students to enrol in a suite of subjects offered within the international undergraduate program at IPB University, including subjects in agribusiness, agronomy and horticulture, plant protection, forestry, food science and technology, and animal production technology.

With classes taught in English, from an Indonesian perspective, students undertaking the ASP will be well- placed to become leaders in international agricultural development equipped with a solid understanding of the food security and resource management challenges facing Indonesia and the Indo-Pacific region.

As part of the ASP, students also undertake a supervised professional placement at an Indonesian Professional Placement Organisation to complement their academic studies. Professional Placement Organisations include international research organisations such as the World Resources Institute (WRI), international non-government organisations such as the World Agroforestry Centre and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), as well as Indonesian and international agribusiness companies. For a full list of participating Professional Placement Organisations, please visit: <a href="https://www.acicis.edu.au/our-programs/science-agriculture/agriculture-semester-program-asp/#placement-organisations">https://www.acicis.edu.au/our-programs/science-agriculture/agriculture-semester-program-asp/#placement-organisations</a>

#### **Academic Supervision**

Acicis programs in Indonesia operate under the direction and overall academic supervision of the Acicis Resident Director, Dr Adrian Budiman.

Additionally, Acicis employs Agriculture Semester Program staff located in Bogor to oversee all aspects of the ASP program, including pastoral care and academic liaison with IPB University.

All academic work undertaken by students at IPB University is taught, supervised and assessed by IPB academic staff.

During their professional placement, students work under the supervision of a Professional Placement Organisation workplace mentor. The workplace mentor supervises and guides a student's work within the Professional Placement Organisation, as well as provides feedback to supervising Acicis staff regarding the student's conduct and performance within the workplace.

#### Structure and Schedule of Learning Activities

The ASP runs in two intakes each year: from August to January, and from January to July. The structure of the semester-long program is as follows:

 A semester of academic classes and coursework (approximately 504 hours in total) at IPB University. Classes can be scheduled anytime between 07:00 to 18:00 Monday-Friday, and 07:00 to 12:00 on Saturdays;



#### Concurrent with;

 One to one-and-a-half day(s) per week professional placement – provided the Professional Placement organisation is located in Bogor or surrounds (approximately 160 hours).

#### OR

 A semester of academic classes and coursework (approximately 504 hours in total) at IPB University. Classes can be scheduled anytime between 07:00 to 18:00 Monday-Friday, and 07:00 to 12:00 on Saturdays;

#### Followed by;

• A four-week 'block' professional placement (only available for January intake) at a Professional Placement Organisation outside of Bogor (approximately 160 hours).

#### **ASP Professional Placement**

The ASP Professional Placement provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable experience working in an Indonesian or international organisation or company operating within the Indonesian agriculture sector. The professional placement offers students the chance to apply theoretical knowledge within an Indonesian professional context while fostering important practical skills in administration, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

Throughout the professional placement, students undertake a supervised period of unpaid work at a participating Professional Placement Organisation. Professional Placement organisations for the ASP Professional Placement include international research institutes, tech start-ups, development agencies, consultancy companies, and agricultural production companies.

Required tasks will vary depending on a student's Professional Placement Organisation. Without good reason and the permission of their workplace mentor AND the Acicis Resident Director, students must attend their placement during all contracted working hours. Students must satisfy both their Professional Placement Organisation and Acicis staff that they have performed all assigned tasks to a satisfactory standard. On completion of the placement, the workplace mentor will be asked to evaluate the student's performance. The mentor will be asked to comment on criteria related to both generic skills (e.g. interpersonal, communication, professionalism, initiative) and discipline-specific knowledge. This feedback will inform each student's end- of-semester Student Outcome Evaluation (SOE) report prepared by Acicis' Resident Director.

Applicants should be aware that they are applying for the program, not a specific placement. Participants are advised that it may not be possible for Acicis to accommodate a student's stated preferences with respect to their Professional Placement Organisation, however all efforts will be made to find a placement relevant to the student's degree. Additionally, all Acicis placements within ASP Professional Placement Organisations depend



entirely on the goodwill and preparedness of such organisations to host participants. As such, Professional Placement Organisations retain the right to withdraw from the program or vary the number of participants they host at any stage.

Therefore, while acting in good faith in preparing students for placements, Acicis cannot guarantee any specific professional placement site and participants must accept this need for flexibility as a condition of participation in the ASP.

#### **Selecting the Placement Selection**

In their initial applications for the ASP, students are asked to nominate sectoral interests and preferred industry placements. Preferences will be considered alongside academic records, demonstrated skill-sets and Professional Placement Organisation requirements, prior to placing students with particular organisations.

The ASP Program Team and Acicis Resident Director oversee selection and professional placement allocation. Professional Placement organisations are encouraged to provide details for preferred or required candidate skillsets in their workplaces.

Acicis will confer with a Professional Placement Organisation prior to confirming a student's placement. Professional Placement Organisations may nominate to review a student's qualifications or to arrange a pre-placement interview via telephone, video call, or email prior to accepting a candidate.

#### **Educational Principles and Graduate Attributes**

Through participation in the ASP, students will:

- Develop their understanding and academic knowledge of Indonesia's agriculture sector and prevailing agricultural practices, as well as the food security and resource management challenges facing Indonesia and the Indo-Pacific region;
- Apply their academic knowledge in an Indonesian industry or professional setting;
- Make a valued contribution to the community or Professional Placement Organisation;
- Enhance employability by honing work skills, performance and conduct;
- Enhance their understanding of Indonesian academic and organisational culture, and gain first-hand experience of the challenges of intercultural management and communication; and
- Establish networks and contacts with peers and professionals working within Indonesia's agriculture sector.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete the ASP successfully should be able to:

Apply their knowledge and academic skills in the Indonesian agriculture sector;



- Critically reflect and report on their experience in an Indonesian workplace and relate this experience to academic knowledge and theory;
- Understand the activities and processes of their Professional Placement Organisation, and how their organisation is positioned within Indonesia's agriculture sector;
- Perform tasks set by an employer to a satisfactory standard and make a positive contribution to achieving the goals of the Professional Placement Organisation overall;
- Demonstrate sound cross-cultural communication skills, flexibility, resourcefulness, ability to work as part of a team, and time management skills; and
- Respect diversity in a range of academic and professional environments.



#### **Teaching and Learning Strategies**

Students undertake academic study to develop an understanding of Indonesian agricultural techniques and systems, under the supervision of IPB University academic staff. This experience is complemented by a professional placement, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in an Indonesian professional context while developing practical skills in administration, research and reporting, and project management.

#### **Evaluation**

#### Classes and coursework

All academic work undertaken by students at IPB University will be supervised and evaluated by IPB University academic staff.

#### Professional Placement

During a student's Professional Placement, Acicis staff will conduct two monitoring visits to a student's Professional Placement Organisation to obtain feedback from both student and Professional Placement Organisation mentor. Upon completion of the placement students are invited to provide specific feedback to Acicis staff through a final 'exit interview' and also through an anonymous online survey, which assists Acicis in improving the quality of placements for subsequent iterations of the program.

#### **Attendance**

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of all classes and 100% of laboratory work and practicums at IPB to satisfactorily complete the program.

Without good reason and the permission of their workplace mentor <u>AND</u> the Acicis Resident Director, students must attend their placement during all contracted (160) working hours.



#### **Assessment**

Upon completion of the program the Acicis Resident Director provides a student's home university with a one-page Student Outcome Evaluation (SOE) report detailing a student's academic performance on the program. Student performance will be assessed only as 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory' (equivalent to 'ungraded pass/fail').

To complete this program satisfactorily, students must demonstrate the ability to perform tasks in their professional placement, to a satisfactory standard, and also to reflect on the experience and relate it back to their academic studies. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled classes at IPB (and 100% of laboratories and practicums) as well as achieve a 'pass' grade minimum in all subjects undertaken.

A student's home university may retain the right to set and grade other assessment tasks related to the program. While Acicis makes a recommendation about the appropriate level of academic credit a student should be awarded for their participation in the program, it is up to individual home universities to determine their own protocols and rules for awarding academic credit to students who undertake and successfully complete the program.

#### **Assessment Components**

Acicis' ASP program is composed of the following key components, as outlined below. Students are required to satisfactorily complete all components in order to achieve an overall grade of 'Satisfactory' for the program:

#	Component	Weighting	Notes
1	Classes and coursework at IPB	60%	Classes held in various departments at IPB University
2	ASP Professional Placement	30%	Professional Placement Organisation mentors and Acicis staff will monitor and supervise student progress and performance.
3	Final Presentation	10%	A brief (20 minute) presentation contextualising a student's Professional Placement experience within the Indonesian agriculture sector.



#### **Assessment Component Details**

The ASP is designed to meet the equivalency requirements of a full-time semester load (0.5 EFTSL) at Acicis member universities, and includes the following assessable components:

#### 1. Classes and coursework at IPB University (504 hours)

All students undertake full-time study at IPB in various faculties and departments. Students are required to complete a total of 12-15 SKS (credit points) per semester on this program, approximately 4-5 subjects.

Below is a list of subjects taught in English, available to Acicis students:

January- July Semester	SKS	August-January Semester	SKS
Department of	Agrono	omy and Horticulture	
Principle of Plant Breeding (AGH211)	3	Fundamental of Plant	3
		Biotechnology (AGH330)	
Principles of Horticulture (AGH240)	3	Seed Science and Technology	3
		(AGH250)	
Plant Propagation (AGH331)	3		
Ornamental Plant and Floriculture	3		
(AGH343)			
Departme	nt of P	lant Protection	
Principles of Crop Protection	3	Integrated Pest and Disease	3
<u>(PTN200)</u>		Management (PTN401)	
		Pests and Diseases of Food and	4
		Horticultural Crops (PTN307)	
		Biological Control and Habitat	3
		Management	
		(PTN305)	
Department	of Land	dscape Architecture	
Landscape Agrotourism (ARL315)	2	Principles of Landscape	3
		Architecture (ARL200)	
Landscape Management (ARL332)	3	Plant in The Landscape (ARL320)	3
		Landscape of Agriculture (ARL330)	2
Department of	Food S	cience and Technology	
Food Microbiology (ITP220)	2	Basic Food Biochemistry (ITP240)	3
Unit Operations in Food Industry	3	Food Safety and Sanitation	2
(ITP230)		(ITP322)	
Principles of Food Processing	3	Principles of Food Engineering	3
(ITP231)		(ITP330)	
Food Analysis (ITP300)	3	Sensory Evaluation of Food	3
		(ITP335)	



Food Fermentation Technology (ITP321)	2	Halal Assurance System (ITP336)	2
Characteristics of Food Materials (ITP332)	3	Food Additives (ITP410)	2
Food Processing Technology (ITP333)	4	Food Quality Assurance (ITP430)	3
Halal Assurance System (ITP336)	2	Food Packaging and Storage Technology (ITP431)	2
Functional Food (ITP441)	3	Biological Evaluation of Foods Components (ITP440)	3
		Characteristics of Food Materials (ITP332)	3
Department of A	Agro-I	ndustrial Technology	
Optimization Technique (TIN317)	3	Agroindustrial Material Science (TIN250)	2
		Quality Control (TIN350)	3
Depar	rtment	of Biology	
Tropical Microbiology: Basic and Application (BIO371)	3	Tropical Microbiology: Basic and Application (BIO371)	3
Indonesian Archipelago: Animal Biodiversity (BIO372)	3	Indonesian Archipelago: Animal Biodiversity (BIO372)	3
Indonesian Ethnobotany (BIO373)	3	Indonesian Ethnobotany (BIO373)	3
Indonesian Bioresources for Health	3	Indonesian Bioresources for Health	3
(BIO374)		(BIO374)	
Rural and Urban Biodiversity	3	Rural and Urban Biodiversity	3
(BIO375)		(BIO375)	
Departn	nent of	Agribusiness	
Dynamics of Agribusiness Market (AGB213)	3	International Business (AGB313)	3
Agribusiness Economics (AGB338)	3	Entrepreneurial Experience (AGB421)	3
Department of A	nimal F	Production Technology	
Innovation of Milk Technology (PTP351)	3	Basic Animal Product Technology (THT211)	3
Animal Genetics (PTP341)	3	Innovation of Meat Technology (THT314)	3
		Small Ruminant Production Technology (PTP322)	3
		Animal Breeding (PTP342)	3
Department of Forest Res	ources	, Conservation and Ecotourism	
Tropical Biodiversity Conservation	3	Tropical Biodiversity Conservation	3



Independent Study: Primate Ecology	2	Independent Study: Primate	2
and Conservation		Ecology and Conservation	
Independent Study: Bird Ecology and	2	Independent Study: Bird Ecology	2
Conservation		and Conservation	
Independent Study: Herpetofauna	2	Independent Study: Herpetofauna	2
Ecology and Conservation		Ecology and Conservation	

#### 2. ASP Professional Placement

Students may undertake the ASP Professional Placement either alongside their IPB classes (e.g. one to one- and-a-half day(s) per week around classes), or as a 'block' at the end of their semester.

Throughout the professional placement, students undertake a supervised placement at a participating Professional Placement Organisation. Required tasks will vary depending on each Professional Placement Organisation, but generally may include: research and report writing, content editing, website editing, translation, data entry, monitoring and evaluation, and other tasks as required by individual Professional Placement Organisations. For more details on possible Professional Placement Organisations and specific placement tasks and duties by Professional Placement Organisation, please visit: <a href="https://www.acicis.edu.au/programs/semester/food-science-agriculture-and-resource-management-program-farm/placements-farm">www.acicis.edu.au/programs/semester/food-science-agriculture-and-resource-management-program-farm/placements-farm</a>

#### ASP Professional Placement Assessment

(160 placement hours – equals to 3 SKS)

Students are assessed as follows:

- Work plan design 10%\*
- Professional Placement Report 20%\*\*
- Participation 70 %\*\*\*
- \* A template for the ASP Professional Placement work plan is provided in Appendix I.
- \*\* A template for the ASP Professional Placement report is provided in Appendix II.
- \*\*\*Student participation and performance is assessed by the student's Professional Placement Organisation mentor and Acicis' Resident Director. On completion of the professional placement, the workplace mentor will be asked to comment on criteria related to both generic skills (e.g. interpersonal, communication, professionalism, initiative) and discipline-specific knowledge. This feedback will inform each student's end- of-semester Student Outcome Evaluation (SOE) report prepared by the Acicis Resident Director.



#### 3. Final Presentation

At the end of the program, students will give a brief (20 minute) presentation regarding their professional placement experience to their fellow ASP students and supervising Acicis staff, followed by a brief question and answer session. Students are to prepare PowerPoint slides to accompany their presentation.



#### Award of Grade for the unit

Both the student and the student's home university will receive a copy of the Acicis Resident Director's Student Outcome Evaluation (SOE) report as well as an official academic transcript from IPB University. These assessment documents will be sent electronically from the Acicis Secretariat in Perth within three months of a student's completion of the program. The home university may choose to award a grade or an ungraded pass/fail on the basis of these documents and any additional home university assessment requirements for the program.



#### **Appendix I: ASP Professional Placement Work Plan**

key working areas
details and location

List the projects you are working on during your ASP Professional Placement, and outline your roles and duties associated with each project.

	Project Description	Roles and Duties	Hours	Supervisor
Regular Projects				
Other Projects				



#### **Appendix II: ASP professional Placement Report Structure**

#### 1. Cover Page

Your cover page should include:

- The Acicis logo;
- Your Professional Placement Organisation's logo with their name (please ask for permission from your supervisor before using it);
- Title: Acicis Agriculture Semester Program;
- Subtitle: Professional Placement Final Report;
- Your full name and your home university.

#### 2. Signature Page

#### 3. Table of Contents

#### 4. Introduction (1-2 paragraphs)

- Briefly explain your motivation for participating in the ASP,
- Provide brief detail of your Professional Placement and Professional Placement Organisation, and
- Outline the objective of your reflective report.

#### 5. Chapter 1: Background

#### a. Details of your Professional Placement Organisation:

A brief paragraph detailing the Professional Placement Organisation (HO)'s profile, vision and mission, as well as the HO's past, current, and future projects <u>based on your understanding</u>. Please note there will be a penalty for plagiarism.

#### b. Division that you work with:

A brief description of the division(s) and the team member(s) that you work with.

#### c. Motivation:

Answering the question on why you chose to intern at this Professional Placement Organisation.

#### 6. Chapter 2: Internship Report

- a. **Tasks and duties:** What were your tasks and duties at the HO? How did you carry these out? What were the outcomes of the projects that you were working on? How were various stakeholders involved within this activity?
- b. Achievements: Which achievements did you consider most successful? Were there any measurable changes (personal, physical, financial, social, natural resources) – directly or indirectly? How will the success that you achieved be sustainably carried on once you leave the Professional Placement Organisation? How have you contributed to the HO's mission?
- c. Challenges: Explain any problems experienced during the project implementation, both internally and externally, outline any efforts made to solve the problems, and elaborate the end result. Who was involved in the effort to problem solve and what did they do? Did you require any type of support or assistance? If yes, specify form whom you obtained support in meeting the challenges you faced.



- d. Learning and Recommendations: What aspects of agricultural and/or environmental studies in Indonesia have you encountered through your professional placement? Did you achieve any personal growth or learning; if yes, describe what you learnt and how.
- e. **Program Analysis**: Please provide comments and recommendation regarding the ASP Professional Placement.
- 7. Chapter 3: Conclusion
- 8. Reference List/Bibliography
- **9. Appendices**: please include your placement work plan and any non-sensitive, non-confidential material or documents that you have written for the Professional Placement Organisation during your Professional Placement.

#### **Formatting**

• Font : Calibri/Times New Roman

• Size : 11 or 12 Point

Spacing : Double spaced, justified

• Referencing : Harvard or Chicago

Word limit : 3,000 words maximum



#### **Appendix III: Marking Rubrics**

#### **ASP Professional Placement**

Student Name:		
Date:		
Assessor:		
Final Mark for component:	/80	Represents 30% of total program assessment

#### Work Plan Design

1. Work plan design

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

#### Professional Placement Report

**2. Reflexive practice:** Student demonstrates ability to identify problems encountered in the workplace, to reflect on behaviour and expectations - both their own and that of others - in the relation to identified problems in the workplace, and a willingness to modify their own work practice. Student also shows an awareness and acceptance of personal limitations.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**3. Writing:** Well written, clear, concise, with spelling and grammar checked, usage of appropriate headings and structure.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



**4. Professional Placement Organisation's expectations met:** Overall satisfaction with student's performance.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**5. Work initiative**: Student worked proactively, independently and demonstrated a flexible approach to tasks assigned by Professional Placement Organisation.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**6. Social and intercultural skills:** Student demonstrated sound cross-cultural communication skills and cross-cultural teamwork behaviours in the workplace.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**7. Application of discipline-specific knowledge:** Student showed ability to draw on previous experiences, skills, and academic studies and apply these to their Professional Placement Organisation's workplace setting.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**8. Critical reflection on workplace performance and practice:** Student demonstrated ability to identify and evaluate issues and problems encountered within their placement Professional Placement Organisation; and to reflect upon and analyse their own experience in the workplace and relate this back to concepts and theories encountered in their academic studies.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



#### **ASP Final Presentation**

Student Name:		
Date:		
Assessor:		
Final Mark for component:	/40	Represents 10% of total program assessment

**1. Reflexive Practice:** Student demonstrated ability to critically analyse and describe their professional placement experience and its impact on their own learning and development.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**2. Integration of experiences and learning:** Student demonstrated familiarity with prior learning, evidence of critical engagement and ability to apply knowledge to own experiences during the program.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**3. Organisation of presentation**: Student demonstrated appropriate use of media, smooth transitions, and a logical flow within their presentation.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**4. Presentation delivery:** Student demonstrated confident and clear presentation delivery, appropriate pacing, engagement with the audience, and an ability to respond appropriately to audience questions.

None		Poor		Weak	Pass	Average		Good		Excellent
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



#### **Acicis Agriculture Semester Program**

#### **Indonesian Partner University**



#### **IPB University**

IPB University was established on 1 September 1963, birthed from a vision to be a worldclass university in the fields of agriculture and bioscience.

It was established with the aim to strengthen food security, bioenergy, job creation, poverty alleviation, and environmental protection in the region and beyond.

IPB University is the only state-run university in Indonesia focusing on tropical agriculture and life sciences and is internationally renowned in its field. It has long standing partnerships with foreign universities and institutions and its international partnerships involve student and academic staff exchange, research collaborations, joint publications, and dual degree programs.



#### **Acknowledgements**

ACICIS gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind support it has received from the Australian Government's 'New Colombo Plan' Mobility Grant Program, which has partially funded the development of, and students' participation in, the Agriculture Semester Program since 2016.

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake professional experiences in the region. For more information on the New Colombo Plan, please visit: <a href="https://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/">www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/</a>

ACICIS also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Australian National University, Murdoch University, The University of Adelaide, The University of Western Australia, and University of Tasmania in providing significant input into the drafting and design of this ASP Curriculum Outline.

ACICIS is gratefully hosted by The University of Western Australia (UWA), one of Australia's leading teaching, learning and research universities. From its heritage riverside campus in Perth, UWA is consistently ranked in the top 100 universities in the world and is a national leader in student demand, graduate starting salaries, research grants and more.