LIEP PROGRAM EVALUATIONS—SUMMER 2013

22 students (of 24) completed the LIEP Program Evaluation Form. First, you will see an overview of the evaluation responses. This is followed by a more detailed break-down of the students' LIEP program evaluations. This was our first summer with a full eight-week session.

OVERVIEW

STUDIO AND WEBSITE: Most students found the Studio application process and the LIEP website acceptably easy to understand. The comments focused on requests to simplify the information and to include the meaning of abbreviations, such as LIEP. There was also a request for information specific to AUSJAL students, whose application situation is different.

TUTORS: Student satisfaction with their tutors is high. The comments of two students seem to indicate that they were assigned tutors but never managed to actually meet with them.

COURSES AND TEACHERS: Overall, the students seem very satisfied with their teachers and courses. There was an occasional comment about too much homework and the suggestion to synchronize the homework better. One student mentioned the old blackboards with chalk as a weakness—and I think it is worth noting that the low level of technology in the Mercy classrooms can make an unfavorable impression. We might also note that another student mentioned that setting up devices sometimes takes too long and waste time.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Students loved the extracurricular activities and wanted more, especially the students who came only for the last four weeks. These students had only one extracurricular activity: two activities had been planned for the second half-session, but the time and energy absorbed by the sudden illness of one of our students pre-empted the planned swamp tour. Students commented that they loved the opportunities for teachers and students to interact informally—it is worth noting that students value these out-of-class interactions with their teachers very highly.

AUSJAL STUDENTS: It was a joy to have the AUSJAL professors as LIEP students. They added a strong measure of maturity, energy, and enthusiasm to our classes. This summer, all the AUSJAL professors were at a level of English proficiency that would allow them to benefit from LIEP; none were so proficient as not to need our program, as happened in Summer 2012.

LIBRARY: Some students experienced a bit of difficulty with the library hours in the last week of classes. They were caught unawares by the library being closed on the weekend before the last week of classes and by the limited library hours during the last week. It would be well to remember to warn our students about this ahead of time next summer.

RESIDENCE HALLS: There has been some difficulty in the residence halls due to workers not being trained how to interact with international students and with non-traditional students. Jess has planned a meeting with someone from Residential Life to address these issues.

DIFFICULTIES WITH TWO FOUR-WEEK HALF-SESSIONS: We found it difficult to manage two such short half-sessions in the summer. This was especially true with testing, orienting, and integrating the second group of arrivals. I think it best not to have half-sessions in the summer, when the time available is so short anyway. A second-best option would be to allow half-session enrollment for the first four weeks only and not the second.
STUDIO APPLICATION PROCESS—18 responses (those who applied directly to LIEP)

I found it easy to apply through Studio.

- Strongly agree: 6
- Agree: 10
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 1
- No response: 1

The LIEP website is easy to use and understand.

- Strongly agree: 5
- Agree: 11
- Disagree: 1
- Strongly disagree: 1

What can we do to improve the LIEP application process?

- Please put between parentheses the meaning of each abbreviation because I did not have any idea about what it was, for example LIEP (Loyola Intensive English Program)
- Without Christina and Susan, it would be more complicated to fill out the application
- Give more specific information for students, for example, it is different for members of AUSJAL universities.
- Add more specific instructions about how to apply on the website.
- Make the website simpler, with only one port of entry for everything.
- I had some problems receiving my documents on time in order to apply for a J-1 visa.
  - My birth date was wrong on the first form I received. I had to wait, though, for a second one. The applying process was okay, however.
- Maybe the professionals can help the students with their drafts.

MY COMMENTS: The evaluation shows that most students, though not all, find the LIEP application process through Studio acceptably easy to manage and the LIEP website acceptably easy to understand. Several good suggestions are given above.
TUTORS

Was the time spent with your tutor helpful? 18 responses

YES—13

My tutor helped me to improve many grammar mistakes. My tutor also helped me with my pronunciation.
My tutor helped me a lot with my listening and speaking. My tutor gave me activities to practice.
We talked, and my tutor knew what I had to do and helped me fix my problems.
The time that I spent with my tutor was very helpful, especially if I had a big essay.
I worked with my tutor on my writing.
I could interact more with a native speaker.
My tutor helped me with my essays and my presentation for my speaking course.
My tutor is a very nice person. My tutor helped me with my doubts and gave me a really good story to read. We talked a lot about different things, and it was a good way to improve my conversation.

QUALIFIED—2

I only met my tutor twice. However, my tutor helped me a lot with one of my essays.
However, I felt that my tutor did not have enough commitment.
I think it must be flexible and at least three hours a week because some homework is hard and there arise many doubts.

NO CONTACT WITH TUTOR—2

I didn’t have any appointment with my tutor.
I did not get in touch with my tutor.

NO INDICATION WHETHER HELPFUL OR NOT—1

After finishing class on the day I don’t have afternoon class

MY COMMENTS: These evaluations show a high overall level of satisfaction with the LIEP tutoring program. Two students seem to have been assigned tutors, but never managed to schedule actual tutoring appointments.
THE PROGRAM

Would you recommend LIEP to a friend?

YES—20

People are nice and classes are efficient and precise.
The course is excellent and interesting. In the course, you have the opportunity to practice a lot.
The office is very well organized. Very friendly and helpful persons. The teachers are very professional.
LIEP is the perfect program to improve your English. It has a complete and organized program.
The program is good.
It is an intensive program and I learned a lot.
I find that experience great. I have learned more English and I have enjoyed Loyola University and New Orleans
LIEP can help someone improve his English much better.
It is a great program to learn English. Every assignment was very helpful.
It is an excellent English program.
It is the best school. I never had any school like it.
They are more serious.
The different ways of teaching English and the way of learning English
It's a good choice to improve your language.
The program helps you to improve your English in every aspect.
LIEP is a complete course, has a good team of teachers, and is developed into an academic environment that promotes exchange among people from different countries.
It is an excellent course. I can see the results.
It is a complete course, and it is possible to improve the English level in different aspects.
It is an intensive course and it is at the same time fun when you are learning.
The teachers are friendly and open-minded. Their classes are interesting and they are always trying to help the students.

QUALIFIED—2

I would recommend it to people who are not too advanced.
Yes. If that friend is in really good pasec [passing?] level of English

Which LIEP activities did you enjoy the most?

All of them
Every activity because in each one I could share with my classmates and teachers and practice my English
Everything because I met many students, and we formed a big family
The possibility of getting to know people from other cultures
Daily class (from Monday to Friday)
The class because the professors were always willing to help you
Grammar because the teacher transformed boring grammar into a fun game
The different games during class—we had a good time and at the same time we learned, for example, when we played Jeopardy in the grammar class.

Writing course—2  
Writing and reading courses  
Writing essays  
Improving my listening through each course  
The integration and cultural activities in class, such as games, participation, work in groups  
Presentation about Brazil (temples and places of worship in Brazil)  
Jess—I had so much fun doing projects  
Elizabeth—She made my mind busy and focused  
Extracurricular activities  
The activities aimed at gathering the students together with the teachers  
The lunches, dinners, and rides with students and teachers together  
Field trip—I have a chance to get to know classmates and that helped me feel comfortable during classes  
Outside activities, but we didn’t have a lot of activities—only one  
The cookout because I could share with new friends, professors, and staff members  
Trip to French Quarter with my classmates and teachers—2  
Global Wildlife Center—3  
No, because the time of it

What were the strengths of LIEP?

Quality of teachers—4  
Kindness of professors—The way professors treat the students is perfect—2  
Attention given by the teachers  
Good teaching and punctuality of the teachers  
Teachers’ explanations  
Staff  
Method  
Schedule  
The time is very important  
Materials (books)—3  
Homework—2  
Activities assigned in accord with the content  
Intensiveness of the courses—We actually must do the homework.  
Well-structured program—2  
Tutor—4  
Small classes—2  
Class observation  
Presentations  
Outside activities—2  
Increase the relationship with the AUJAL students  
To build a network of teaching English as a second language with AUJAL universities

What were the weaknesses of LIEP?

Classes were slow sometimes—We spent too much time on a subject  
Too much homework  
Try to synchronize the homework
Maybe it would be better if we had some material in hard copy like CDs and that we had
to deal many copies.
Old blackboard with chalk
Sometimes it is a little bit hard to get in touch with the professors
Setting up devices takes too long and wastes time
Grammar classes
The Jungle Book—2
Not enough reunions where we could meet all the LIEP students
I would like more extracurricular activities
The doctor is in only on Wednesday. I think he should be in everyday to help not only
students but also everybody

Overall, has the program met your expectations? Are you satisfied with your progress?

YES—16

I’m satisfied because I feel I am getting better in my English.
For me, the course was very hard because my English level is low, but I see my
progress. I am happy and satisfied, but I need to continue working in my country. I
am very grateful to everyone for your patience and for understanding me.
A good level, well organized, without stress
It was better than I thought.
I think that I actually improved my English. Sometimes I could think in English, and that
was great.
I can notice my progress in comparison with when I started the program.
I improved my English skills.
I improved a lot since I moved here.
It helped me a lot in reading and to prepare me for the university.
I want to repeat this experience because I think I have to improve more my listening and
speaking. But in the class of listening and speaking, I could improve it. It’s a very
good class. Maybe it would be important to spend more time in this class, not only
two days.
I am very happy that I came. I can really observe my improvement.
I think I have improved my skills, and I feel more sure to express my ideas in English.
I am satisfied with my progress. It was time to wake up my neurons and make them
work.
I enjoyed this course because I improved reading, writing, listening, and I understand
grammar better.
Yes, I hope my English is better now.

QUALIFIED—6

With my expectations, yes. My progress I really don’t know. I think I have to practice, but
I would love to know if I did get better.
I haven’t followed the program for long enough to really make progress.
I’m satisfied, but I should do more if I had convenient time to do every single
assignment.
Yes, the program met part of my expectations, but I’d like it to be more challenging, and
with more academic readings and practices for TOEFL or standardized tests.
Yes, except the grammar class
Overall it is good, but in some classes, teachers don’t have a clear plan to teach, which makes them change the plan, and students are confused.

**MY COMMENTS:** Overall, there is a high level of satisfaction with LIEP. Further comments are in the Overview section at the beginning of this report.