

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## New \$1 million exchange program offers students a world-class education experience

A new student exchange program will see the University of Tasmania partnering with some of the world's finest journalism programs.

The University of Tasmania's Journalism, Media and Communications program, in partnership with Griffith University, has been successful in obtaining a \$500,000 grant for a double degree program with European partners in Denmark and Netherlands. A further 350,000 euros have been awarded by the EU towards the program.

Bringing together leading journalism and media programs in Australia and Europe, the project will be the first of its kind, providing 40 undergraduate journalism students access to intensive one-year study programs that complement and build on their home institution study.

It is the only program of this kind to be selected for Encounter commonwealth funding in Australia.

Tasmanian students will spend five months in Aarhus at the Danish School of Media and Journalism (DSMJ), and five months at the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and earn an internationally-recognised double degree from the University of Tasmania and DSMJ.

The program, *Europe in the World: Reporting Political, Environmental and Social Change*, incorporates the exchange with an academic research project, which the students will also contribute.

The program also involves industry partners in the media.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said the new exchange would give journalism students an excellent opportunity to expand their horizons.

"Our Journalism program, highly ranked as one of the best in the country, will be further enhanced by our ability to offer students a truly exceptional education experience under this new scheme.

“One of the most pleasing things about this program is not only the opportunity for our students to access the enriching and immersive experience of education in a foreign country, but also to contribute to a significant academic research project.

“This project is also the latest acknowledgement of the University’s ongoing friendship with Denmark. We have a number of Danish students studying with us, including those supported by Crown Princess Mary Scholarships.”

Professor Rathjen said the University’s upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> birthday would acknowledge this connection.

Project lead, Professor Libby Lester (Head of Journalism, Media and Communications), said the program would provide students with highly-developed communication and reporting skills.

“The capacity to understand and contextualise our world demands reporters with international knowledge and outlook, who can respond to local and global events and conditions.

“This program addresses this demand. It will foster graduates with the capacity to communicate events, issues and risks during a period of rapid change, and who understand diverse political, environmental and social contexts,” Professor Lester said.

“We anticipate that the graduates of this program will be highly employable due to their research skills and valuable practical experience.”

**Information released by:**

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