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Five Things You Should Know about Jesuit Worldwide Learning: Higher Education at the Margins¹

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1. What: Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) is not a university but a global partnership of universities, information technology (IT) companies, humanitarian organizations and local communities, bringing quality higher education to the margins. It offers professional certificates, Global English Language (GEL) courses, a Diploma in Liberal Studies, and other emerging academic programs.

The Diploma in Liberal Studies consists of 45 credits currently awarded by Regis University² and is a gateway to Associate's and Bachelor's degrees with partner universities; the professional certificates are blended learning courses whose topics are relevant to and requested by the communities JWL serves; the Global English Language program is a stepping stone to the Diploma and other offerings.

2. Where: JWL currently has learning centers in 14 countries across three continents, serving those who have been marginalized due to poverty, lack of opportunity, location, conflict or forced displacement.

3. Why: Education is a key instrument and indicator of development, economic growth, peace, and the foundation for building open societies. JWL contributes to the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaching students in the areas with the lowest levels of human development. There are currently 70.8 million forcibly displaced people in the world, and less than 3% of the world's refugees, estimated to be 25.9 million people, have access to higher education.³ Our programs aim to reduce inequalities, foster critical thinking, dialogue and peace while empowering students

with the knowledge and skills to nourish the desire to serve their communities and foster hope for a more peaceful and humane world.

4. How: We draw on the rich tradition of Jesuit higher education and the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm, structured around experience, reflection, action and evaluation. In partnership with higher education institutions and universities, JWL relies on strategic partnerships to set up and to operate learning centers in host countries while providing online education either through its own learning management system (LMS), JWL HeLP, or through the donation of an LMS from Georgetown University for its Diploma program. JWL courses have been created by subject matter experts, and instructors for its courses are recruited from around the world. Among its international partners are the Newman Institute in Sweden, Xavier University in Bhubaneswar, India, and Hekima College in Kenya.

Because JWL is not a brick and mortar university and employs a scalable, transferable and sustainable cost-sharing model, the cost for educating those living at the margins is significantly reduced. A few estimates of costs in 2019 are as follows: one year in the Global English Language course (3 levels of CEFR) costs JWL USD 600; a professional course of 6 months costs USD 1,200; and a Liberal Studies student can take 5 courses (15 credits) at USD 2,300. These amounts cover JWL's delivery and onsite costs and are based on a model which currently reaches almost 4,000 students. Funding for these expenses comes from the generosity of partners, foundations, corporate sponsors and in-kind contributions.



5. Opportunities to Assist and Benefits to Partner Universities:

JWL needs university partners to provide:

A) Access for JWL diploma graduates to five online courses already taught at your university and which can be transferred to the JWL Liberal Studies courses' awarding university to complete an AA degree. Integrating JWL diploma graduates in your existing online courses can also help better prepare your students by offering them global classroom experiences in our globally connected world.

B) Scholarships (online or otherwise) to graduates of the Diploma Program. Forty-five credits from the JWL Liberal Studies courses' awarding university can transfer toward a bachelor's degree at your university. A handbook with step-by-step procedures and personal assistance by JWL staff in the implementation of these scholarships is available. Lead by example: this is Catholic Social Teaching at its best. Students in the global classroom learn not only their subjects but also undergo self-discovery through personal connection with students living at the margins, which for some may be a first step toward promoting social justice.

C) Opportunities for your own students to engage in a global classroom with the students in the JWL Diploma courses. Traditional students can study in the JWL Diploma classes for credit at their home university. Such students gain different perspectives on the same topics as they study with others from different socio-economic classes, religions, and ethnicities.

D) A liaison who will promote and seek mutual benefits for JWL and their university, which includes recruiting faculty to teach JWL courses, and inviting faculty to score admissions essays for the JWL Diploma classes and Certificates.

E) Assistance in financially supporting this Jesuit initiative that transforms lives and communities. JWL accepts donations at its website, <https://www.jwl.org/en/home>, and welcomes new initiatives for funding its programs.

F) Opportunities to faculty for transformative research on JWL's programs, its students, and alumni that benefit those living at the margins. JWL welcomes research proposals that fit these criteria.

G) New initiatives that benefit JWL students and its mission are invited. Initiatives that mutually benefit JWL and your home institution and students are particularly sought.

Contacts for Assistance and Support for JWL

For exploring partnerships and new programs with JWL: Peter Balleis, S.J., peter.balleis@jwl.org; Dr. Oula Abu-Amsha, oula.abuamsha@jwl.org

For research opportunities or for conducting research focused on individuals/issues at the margins: Dr. Isabella Rega, ir180@jwl.org

For teaching in Professional Certificate Courses: Dr. Oula Abu-Amsha, oula.abuamsha@jwl.org

For serving as an Academic Liaison for their home institutions: Dr. Martha Habash, martha.habash@jwl.org

For establishing scholarships in online bachelor's programs at your university: Dr. Martha Habash, martha.habash@jwl.org

For offering courses toward an AA degree with the awarding university: Dr. Martha Habash, martha.habash@jwl.org

For teaching with JWL or learning more about the Regis/JWL Diploma: Dr. Marie Friedemann, mf1029@jwl.org

For teaching in the Global English Language Program: Ms. Susanna Ablewhite, susanna.ablewhite@jwl.org

For serving as volunteer subject matter tutors, math/science tutors, writing tutors or teaching assistants: Dr. Ami McNally, am3539@jwl.org

For telling the JWL story (marketing and media): Ms. Christa Bathany, christa.bathany@jwl.org; M. Alessandra Carminati, Alessandra.carminati@jwl.org 



Notes

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² Regis University is the awarding university through December 2021. JWJ is currently actively seeking an American Jesuit university to be the new awarding university beginning in January 2022.

³ UNHCR, *Tertiary Education*, accessed May 1, 2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/tertiary-education.html>; UNHCR, *Figures at a Glance*, accessed May 1, 2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>