

International Consultancy Project

The International Consultancy Project (ICP) has been the cornerstone of the Master Exchange Programme at RSM since 1989. In a team of international students, students work intensively on a consultancy project for a company or institution for about four months. Coaches from the university and the company supervise the project and the aim is to respond professionally to a real world management problem and to learn from working in multidisciplinary and culturally diverse groups. For the companies involved in this project, it provides a unique opportunity to gain access to valuable knowledge, recommendations or solutions for a business problem within a relatively short period of time. Typically, the student teams introduce a refreshing outside perspective to the company's business issue.

The ICP reflects RSM's greatest strengths as a top 10 European business school, recognised for the international diversity of our participants and the close relationships we maintain with business. Business projects for major companies ranging from Aon, to Shell and Siemens Nederland have been rewarding experiences for students, the school and the participating companies themselves.

ICP structure and credits

Teams usually consist of five students from different backgrounds that hold the skills and competences required by the companies. An academic coach from RSM and an in-company coach from the client organisation are assigned to the project. RSM provides training in consulting, presentation and communication management, to help students master the skills necessary for project management and consultancy work.

During the project, we will hold two feedback meetings to monitor the group's progress and address any problems with companies or coaches.

Students, who participate successfully in the ICP, will obtain 12.5 EC.



ICP has five stages

1. **Introduction:** after a successful application for a business project, students receive information about the company, the business project and their fellow team members at the start of the project. The launch lecture highlights potential pitfalls. Seminars and training sessions are offered to prepare students for their business project.
2. **Problem definition:** teams have their first meeting with their academic and company coaches. A project proposal – a brief description and analysis of the issue – will be drafted. Students make suggestions for research, a schedule, budget and resource list. The phase ends with approval of the proposal.
3. **Implementation research:** each team collects data by consulting secondary sources, conducting interviews, and analysing reports. The report must be approved by both coaches.
4. **Presentation of results:** towards the end of the project, the team presents its findings and recommendations to the company. Each team will also prepare a presentation for fellow students and a jury of consultants at RSM.
5. **Evaluation:** the project concludes with a review of the team's efforts and each student's individual learning experience. This way, students will discover and identify what they have learned in terms of project and consultancy skills, research skills and team skills.

ICP requirements

Master exchange students who want to participate in the ICP, need to meet one the following language requirements, we do not accept language statements from the partner university:

- TOEFL iBT; overall minimum of 95, with a minimum score of 23 on all sub components;
- IELTS; overall minimum of 6.5, with a minimum score of 6.5 on all sub components;
- Native speakers or students from an entirely English-taught programme are exempted.

The ICP is a demanding project with a high workload. Therefore, we **strongly** advise students to participate in a maximum of one course per Block next to the ICP. Experience has taught us that students, who take more than one course per Block, perform less in the ICP, which is not acceptable to the company and the other team members.