Ascertaining Curriculum Relevance through Web-based Tracer Study

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	Abstract
Received : November 13, 2023 Revised : November 30, 2023 Accepted : December 29, 2023	This article aims to describe the relevance of alumni's jobs with the curriculum of the Indonesian Literature Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP), Universitas Jambi. The research object was Indonesian Literature alumni who responded with a total of 86 respondents. The data collection technique was carried out by sharing the questionnaire link via the study program website https://sastraindonesia.unja.ac.id/ to 86 Alumni. The data in this research were analyzed using a descriptive approach. The findings shown that graduates have worked with a high level of job suitability (41.9%), low level of work suitability (27.9%), medium level of work suitability (20%). It indicates that the relevance of the curriculum to world needs is quite appropriate. The findings also show that most of the respondents worked as private employees. It can be concluded that the Indonesian Literature Study Program needs to equip graduates with recognition of competencies in certain fields for students. A certificate or competency certificate will be an added value for graduates to compete in the workplace.
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INTRODUCTION

College as the higher education level whose outcomes are job-ready graduates who can implement knowledge professionally in future work. The decision to study in college is a crucial decision (Coleman & Shevlin, 2019). Higher education is required to be able to meet the wants, needs, and expectations of stakeholders at the workplace. The level of absorption of graduates in work is one indicator of the quality of higher education. In order to evaluate the quality of individual phases of skills formation, it is necessary to take account of the quality of the human capital (Ferrante, 2017). Therefore, curriculum development is always carried out by universities so that graduates can work according to their fields of expertise. Successful management of the environment must be supported by the highest quality human resources (Sariwulan et al., 2020). The suitability of the graduate's jobs should refer to the profile of the graduate of the study program. The graduate profile is a description of the profession that is considered relevant to the applied curriculum. In more detail, in the curriculum, there are courses that are

arranged to be able to meet the competencies of the profile of study program graduates. It must always be ensured that universities have relevant curriculum which are periodically updated in accordance with the current state (Dianing Kartika et al., 2019). One way to dig up information relates to the transition from college to work is to carry out a study which is usually referred to as a Tracer Study (Efiyanna et al., 2019).

Tracer study is a study to trace graduates of a particular educational institution who have completed their education in a certain period (Schomburg, 2003). The most important objective of a tracer study is the evaluation and development of an institution. Tracer studies can also provide information about the relationship between higher education and the workplace. Through tracer study, work matches can be traced horizontally (between fields of science) and vertically (between scientific strata) (Saiful et al., 2019). Tracer study is a powerful tool that can provide valuable information for evaluating the whereabouts and performance of the graduates in the workplace (Cuadra et al., 2019). Through tracer studies as well, universities can obtain information related to deficiencies in the educational process as well as learning (Renny et al., 2013).

Tracer study provides useful information for the purposes of evaluating higher education outcomes. Through tracer study activities information about graduates who are already working and not can be obtained (Sumadhinata et al., 2021). This information can later be used to improve and guarantee the quality of a higher education institution (Prihatni & Winingsih, 2016). A good university will always build its reputation in society and the workplace. One way a university's reputation is built is through the quality of its graduates (Nursubiyantoro & Puryani, 2016). A good reputation is an indicator that a university has succeeded in making its curriculum relevant to what is needed in the (Daeng & Rois, 2022). Tracer study will provide feedback from graduates to improve and improve the quality of future study programs.

The Indonesian Literature Study Program Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) Universitas Jambi is a study program that has been established since 2013 and has had graduates since 2017. The Indonesian Literature Study Program has at least 7 batches of graduates. Unfortunately, there has never been a comprehensive tracer study related to the suitability of the graduate's field of work with the profile of study program graduates. Furthermore, the study program also does not have contacts and graduate databases that can be used to track the traces of graduates. This has always been an obstacle for study programs to complete higher education IKU data and increase study program accreditation. IKU (Key Performance Indicator) is a measure of the success of an organization's strategic goals and objectives.

Referring to the Curriculum Manuscript for the Indonesian Literature Study Program (2021), there are four profiles of graduates of the Indonesian Literature Study Program, namely language researchers, literary researchers, writers, actors and directors. Determining the graduate profile refers to Presidential Regulation no. 8 of 2012 concerning KKNI (Indonesian National Qualifications Framework) which stipulates that Bachelor (S1) graduates must have qualification level. It includes the development of a quality assurance system that has monitoring and

assessment functions for bodies or institutions related to the processes of equalizing learning outcomes with appropriate qualification levels.

The graduates are required to be skilled and able to develop (Heriyadi et al., 2021). The profile of language research graduates has roles that include reviewing, documenting, developing, and preserving language to preparing supporting resources capable of disseminating information about language preservation. Furthermore, the graduates can be language data and project specialist (Miličević Petrović et al., 2021). This role can be carried out, among others, in the Language Development Agency, the Language Office, and as a language teacher in higher education. Literary research is a role that includes reviewer, comparator, reviewer, analyzer, and preserver of oral and written literature. This role can be carried out by language centers, museums, BRIN, and literature teachers in universities.

Literary research is important because the activity of reading and appreciating literary works is one part of human life activities. In appreciating literary research, the reader tries to analyze the literary works which can use several approaches (Putra et al., 2023). Therefore, the aim of teaching literature actually has two targets, namely for students to gain literary knowledge and experience. Literary knowledge is obtained by reading theory, history and literary criticism. While literary experience is obtained by reading, seeing performances of literary works, and writing literary works. In relation to entrepreneurship, writing can be made into writing entrepreneurship or better known as writerpreneur. They can make a breakthrough to boost the culture of community literacy across borders so that they become more confident in building national and international literacy networks (Suroso et al., 2021).

Referring to the Universitas Jambi Strategic Plan (2020), there are five priorities, namely student achievement, management transformation, academic reputation, relevance in work graduated, and technology for digital transformation. The student achievement is vital for nation's competitiveness (Cheryan et al., 2014). The mission includes strengthening databases and digital transformation, as well as tracking graduates. For this reason, the research needs to be carried out to support the achievement of strategic plan to realize the vision of Universitas Jambi to become "A World Class Entrepreneurship University" and one of Universitas Jambi's missions is to produce graduates who are competitive and able to apply knowledge according to their fields professionally.

The specific aim of this research is to analyze the curriculum relevance, especially in the suitability of graduates' fields of work after completing studies at the Indonesian Literature Study Program, FKIP, Universitas Jambi. A relevant curriculum is a curriculum that provides the students with opportunity to develop themselves (Hiim, 2017). This can also be a reference for the relevance of the curriculum implemented in the Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi to the needs of the workplace, providing input for the development of study programs, especially to improve the quality of learning and obtain an overview of the competencies needed by graduates in the workplace

In addition, this research needs to be carried out to strengthen database and digital transformation, as well as track the suitability of graduates' fields of work with the profile of graduates of the Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi in order to fulfill the IKU data, accreditation and learning

evaluation required by the study program and so far this has never been done in the Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi.

METHODS

This type of research is survey research with an evaluative descriptive approach. Descriptive research is obtained from the results of data analysis and interpretation (Nazir, 2003). The stages of research will be carried out through three stages. The first stage is to compile concepts and instruments. The second stage continues with data collection. The last stage is analysis and drawing conclusions. The subject of this tracer study research is a graduate of the Indonesian Literature Study Program, a graduate of 2017-2023. The research data consists of quantitative and qualitative data. In this study, there are also primary and secondary data.

Data collection was carried out in two ways, namely distributing questionnaires and documentation. The questionnaire will be distributed via a link that will be published on the Indonesian Literature Study Program website https://sastraindonesia.unja.ac.id/. Some of the questionnaires distributed are closed and some are open. Closed questionnaires consist of questions for which alternative answers have been provided and open questionnaires provide opportunities for graduates to convey their responses objectively. Documentation data is obtained by accessing SIAKAD (Academic System) to obtain data information in the form of study period, GPA, curriculum used, etc.

The data in this research were analyzed using a descriptive approach. The purpose of descriptive analysis is to summarize data. Data is summarized to make it easier to see and understand (Sukardi, 2008). Descriptive analysis uses distribution tabulation and histogram techniques. The analysis is also equipped with a narrative explanation. In more detail, the following are the analysis steps that will be carried out.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Alumni as an important part of an educational institution where they are produced cannot be separated from their existence which can determine the existence and quality of the educational institution in question. Educational institutions that are often concerned about the existence of their alumni are universities. Higher education institutions are very dependent on alumni because alumni can provide feedback on the progress of the higher education institution through public perception of the presence of alumni in society, especially their presence in the world of work. To understand more about the ins and outs of alumni and their dynamics, it is necessary to explain several things related to these alumni.

Indonesian Literature Study Program, one of the study programs under the Department of History, Art and Archeology, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Jambi. This study program has a B accreditation from BAN-PT. The curriculum implemented in Indonesian Literature is always dynamic following scientific developments and market demands. The study period for

students taking a minimum of 144 credits is generally 3.5 – 4 years. The degree obtained at the end of the study period is Bachelor of Letters (S.S.). The teaching staff at Indonesian Literature are experts in their fields, domestic and foreign graduates. While studying at Sasindo, students are encouraged to be active in organizational activities and actively participate in the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM). In this way, the Indonesian Literature Study Program can answer market needs in terms of producing quality Human Resources (HR) in the fields of Malay language, literature and culture.

Indonesian literature study programas part of higher education providers, we are required to continuously evaluate and improve quality standards in accordance with those required by the National Education System Standards. This is intended to be able to measure the extent of the quality achievements that have been produced. The success of an educational institution can be seen from the extent to which its graduates can apply their knowledge in society.

Responding to the various conditions mentioned above, the Indonesian literature study program as a higher education institution is expected to produce graduates who can be absorbed into the world of work. In meeting these demands, there are two issues faced, namely the quality of education and the relevance of the curriculum to market needs. Therefore, improving the quality of graduates is the answer to these two issues, because with these efforts the Indonesian literature study program can prepare its content and education system so that the graduates produced can compete in the world of work, and are in accordance with the wishes of stakeholders. Therefore, these two issues should be used as a basis for improving the quality of education provided by the Indonesian Literature Study Program by taking strategic steps to maintain its existence and quality as a superior, leading and trusted faculty in the view of stakeholders. The number of alumni in the last 7 years are 202 alumni, while only 86 alumni responded. Data entered and participated from graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi based on the graduation period of the academic year are presented in table 1.

Table 1. Recap of Data on Graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi who Filled in the Questionnaire

No	Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates Who Filled in the Questionnaire
1	2017	3
2	2018	11
3	2019	10
4	2020	15
5	2021	10
6	2022	20
7	2023	17
	Total	86

The data in Table 1 shows that the total number of graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program graduated from the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi as many as 86 people with details of women as many as 62 people (72,1%) and men as many as 24 people (27,9%). The achievement of number of respondents who filled out the questionnaire is expected to continue to increase from year to year.

Graduate Waiting Time

Tracer Study does not only provide information about the job search process from the perspective of alumni but also related information the time it takes for graduates to find work. The following are the survey results for the average waiting period for graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi.

Table 2. Graduate Waiting Time

No	Year of Graduation	Number of Graduates Waiting Time (WT)			
		WT < 3 months	3 ≤ WT ≤ 6 months	WT > 6 months	Not yet Working
1	2017	1	2	0	0
2	2018	4	4	1	2
3	2019	6	1	1	2
4	2020	4	7	3	1
5	2021	6	1	3	0
6	2022	7	7	4	2
7	2023	11	2	0	4
	TOTAL	39 (%)	24 (%)	12 (%)	(11%)

The data in Table 2 shows that the total number of graduates who are currently working is 75 people. A total of 39 people (45.3%) found work less than three months after they graduated. A total of 24 people (27.9%) found employment within three to six months of their graduation. A total of 12 people (14%) found work more than six months after they graduated. There were 11 graduates (12.8%) who said they were not currently employed or not yet employed. A total of 3 graduates did not work because they were continuing their studies, 2 people were housewives, and 3 people still did not succeed in not getting a job.

Types and Suitability of Graduate Work Areas

Alumni are not just students who have finished their studies, but its existence is an important factor for an institution to perform strategy development. One important aspect that needs to be explored from alumni is type of institutional business where alumni obtain work. Indonesian Literature Study Program in this case, is necessary develop effective strategies to contribute to alumni, and vice versa for alumni towards the institution by looking at the type of business where the alumni work. Type of business engaged in by the unit or institution where alumni work is divided into: (a) agency government, including BUMN; (b) private companies; (c) self-employment or company; (d) school; and (e) Journalist. The following are the survey results for the average type and suitability of the field of work of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi.

Table 3. Types of Graduate Jobs

No	Year of Graduation	BUMN employees	Private sector employee	Writers/ Culturists/Artists	Entrepreneurship	Teacher/ School staff	Journalist	Honorary Employees
1	2017	0	2	0	1	0	0	0

2	2018	1	2	0	1	5	0	0
3	2019	0	4	1	0	2	0	1
4	2020	0	4	1	0	8	0	1
5	2021	0	5	0	2	0	3	0
6	2022	1	9	0	1	7	0	0
7	2023	0	5	0	4	2	0	2
	TOTAL	**2**	**31**	**2**	**9**	**24**	**3**	**4**

The data in Table 3 shows that out of a total of 75 graduates who are currently employed, as many as 31 people (41.3%) work as private employees. A total of 24 people (32%) work as teachers and/or staff in schools and other educational institutions. A total of 9 graduates (12%) work as entrepreneurs. A total of 4 graduates (5.3%) work as honorees in government agencies. A total of 3 graduates (4%) work as journalists. Only 2 people (2.7%) work as employees of SOEs. Similarly, with the profession of literati, artists, or culturalists, only 2 graduates (2.7) chose this profession.

Table 4. Suitability of Graduate Field of Work

No	Year of Graduate	Number of graduates with suitability level for work field		
		Low [1]	Mid [2]	High [3]
1	2017	3	0	0
2	2018	3	1	5
3	2019	0	5	3
4	2020	4	2	8
5	2021	7	0	3
6	2022	5	3	10
7	2023	2	4	7
	TOTAL	**24**	**15**	**36**

Based on the vision and mission of the study program, needs analysis (market signals) through tracer studies and focused group discussions (FGDs) with stakeholders, as well as existing regulations and guidelines, the S-1 Indonesian Literature study program has formulated four profiles of study program graduates, namely as professional research assistants, creative writers and culturalists, journalists with integrity, and innovative educators. The data in Table 4 are divided into three criteria. First, the level of suitability in the field of work is low, namely, the type of job/position in the job is not appropriate or less in accordance with the graduate profile planned in the curriculum document. Second, the type of job/position in the job is quite in accordance with the graduate profile planned in the curriculum document. Third, the type of job/position in the job is in accordance or very in accordance with the graduate profile planned in the curriculum document.

The data in Table 4 also shows that of the total 75 graduates who are currently employed, as many as 24 people (27.9%) are working with a low level of work. A total of 15 people (20%) work with a level of compliance with a medium field of work. A total of 36 people (41.9%) are in professions with a high level of suitability.

Salary of Graduates

Monthly salary is one of the things that is very important for faculties as an illustration of the success of graduates. Therefore, tracking graduate salaries is a point that must be implemented. The following are the results of a survey of salary rates for graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi who have worked.
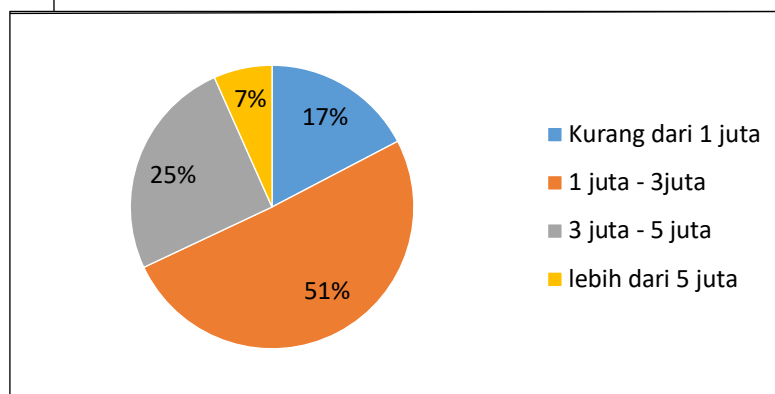

Figure 1. Graduates salary amount

The data in Figure 1 shows that of the total 86 graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi, as many as 13 people (17%) had a salary of less than one million rupiah. A total of 38 people (51%) have a salary of one to three million rupiah. A total of 19 people (25%) have a salary of three to five million rupiah. As many as 5 people (7%) have a salary of more than five million rupiah.

Graduates Working as Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship is a creative business that is built based on innovation to produce something new and different with others, has added value, provides benefits, creates employment and the results are useful for other people The following are the survey results of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi who are entrepreneurs.

Table 5. Graduates Working as Entrepreneurs

No	Year of graduation	Working as Entrepreneurs	Not Working as Entrepreneurs	Not Answering
1	2017	1	2	0
2	2018	2	9	0
3	2019	2	8	0
4	2020	3	12	0
5	2021	4	6	0
6	2022	5	15	0
7	2023	5	12	0
	TOTAL	22	64	0

The data in Table 5 shows that of the total 86 graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi, as many as 22 people (25.6%) owned businesses.

Some are full-time entrepreneurs. Some are entrepreneurial while working or continuing their studies. As many as 64 people (74.4%) answered that they do not have a business or do not undergo a profession as an entrepreneur.

Table 6. Graduates Working as Entrepreneurs

No	Tahun Lulus	Number of Graduates Working by Level/Size of Workplace/Entrepreneurship		
		Local/Regional/Un licensed entrepreneurship	National/Licensed Entrepreneurship	Multinational/ International
1	2017	1	0	0
2	2018	2	0	0
3	2019	2	0	0
4	2020	3	0	0
5	2021	4	0	0
6	2022	5	0	0
7	2023	5	0	0
	TOTAL	22	0	0

The data in Table 6 shows that of the total 22 graduates who answered having a business or entrepreneurship, all of them (100%) only have local/regional/unlicensed business licenses. There are no entrepreneurial graduates who have a national/licensed entrepreneurial business license or a multinational / international business license.

Graduates Continuing Studies

The following are the survey results for graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi who continue their studies.

Table 7. Graduates Continuing Studies

No	Year of Graduation	Continuing Study	Not Continuing Study	Not Responding
1	2017	0	3	0
2	2018	0	11	0
3	2019	1	9	0
4	2020	1	14	0
5	2021	0	10	0
6	2022	2	18	0
7	2023	2	15	0
	TOTAL	6	80	0

The data in Table 7 shows that of the total 86 graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi, as many as 6 people (7%) are continuing their studies to the master level. As many as 80 people (93%) answered that they did not continue their studies to the master's or doctoral level.

The Relevance of the Curriculum to the Needs of the Workplace

One of the successes of institutions in producing alumni is the absorption of alumni in various fields of work according to their respective fields of expertise or majors. In this section, we will explain how the field of study matches with work.

The following are the survey results of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi related to the relevance of the Study Program courses to the needs of the world of work. All graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi in 2017-2023 use the 2017 Curriculum in their learning. The following is data on graduate responses related to the relevance of the curriculum to the needs of the world of work.
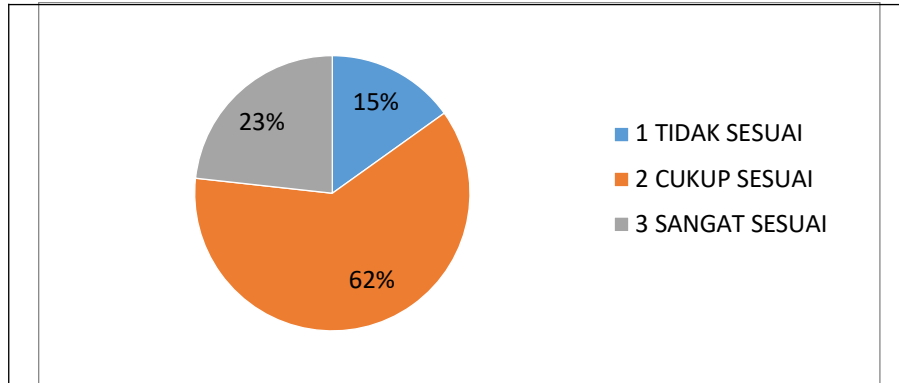

Figure 2. Relevance of Courses to Current Development Needs in the World of Work

The data in figure 2 shows that out of a total of 86 graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi, as many as 20 people (23%) stated that the relevance of the Study Program courses to the needs of the world of work is very appropriate. A total of 53 people (62%) stated that the relevance of the Study Program courses to the needs of the world of work was quite appropriate. A total of 13 people (15%) stated that the relevance of the Study Program courses to the needs of the world of work was not appropriate.
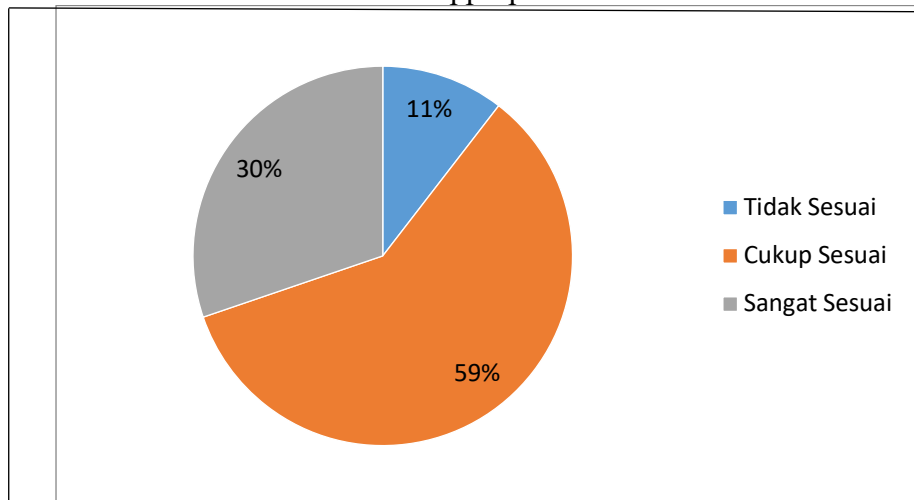

Figure 3. Relevance of Practical Experience Skills in Agencies/Companies During KKN/Internship with Current Development of Job Needs

The data in figure 3 shows that out of a total of 86 graduates who participated in the Tracer Study program of graduates of the S-1 Indonesian Literature Study Program FKIP Universitas Jambi, as many as 26 people (30%)

stated that the relevance of practical experience skills in agencies/companies during KKN/internship to the development of current work needs is very appropriate. A total of 51 people (59%) stated that the relevance of practical experience skills in agencies/companies during KKN/internship to the development of current work needs is quite appropriate. As many as 9 people (11%) stated that the relevance of practical experience skills in agencies/companies during KKN/internship to the development of current work needs is not appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Most of the graduates have worked with a high level of job suitability in accordance with the graduate profile contained in the curriculum text. The other half work at a medium level of suitability for their field of work. This means that it does not match the graduate profile contained in the curriculum text, but is still related to the fields of language and literature. There are graduates who work with a low level of job suitability, meaning they do not match the graduate profile contained in the curriculum text and are not related to the fields of language and literature. In term of salary, most graduates have worked with salaries in the range of one to three million rupiah. There are still graduates who earn salaries below one million rupiah. A few graduates earn a salary of three to five million rupiah. There are still very few graduates with salaries above five million. Graduates who work as entrepreneurs are still low and are known to only have local/regional permits/unlicensed entrepreneurship. Graduates who continue their studies are still very low. Generally, the curriculum and internship practices implemented by the Indonesian Literature Undergraduate Study Program are relevant to the needs of the world of work.

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