

## ABSTRACT

RASTRA KUKUH PRADANA 2025, *Teaching English Abroad: Challenges and Benefits of Sea Teacher Program Batch 10 Participants in the Philippines*. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training Education of Universitas Jambi in Academic year 2024/2025. The first supervisor is Indri Anastasia, S.S., MA. The second supervisor is Dr. Mukhlash Abrar, S.S., M. Hum.

This study explores the challenges, strategies used, and benefits experienced by SEA Teacher Program Batch 10 participants from Universitas Jambi who taught English in the Philippines. Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with five purposively selected participants and analysed thematically. The findings reveal four primary challenges: curriculum adaptation, classroom management in diverse cultural contexts, linguistic barriers, and cultural sensitivity issues. Participants overcame these difficulties through active observation, collaboration with resource teacher and local students, flexible teaching adaptations, use of technology and non-verbal communication, and the development of cultural empathy. Despite the challenges, the program significantly enhanced participants' English teaching skills, intercultural communication competence, and personal and professional growth. They reported improved fluency, creativity in teaching, adaptability, and a stronger global perspective. These findings highlight the transformative impact of international teaching practicums and underscore the SEA Teacher Program's role in preparing culturally responsive and globally minded educators.

**Keywords:** SEA Teacher Program, International Teaching Practicum, English Language Teaching, Teaching Practicum Challenges, Benefits of Teaching Practicum