

‘GLOBAL OBSERVER’: TEACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Global Observer, an online magazine focused on stories with an international angle, was conceived as a way of enhancing and putting into practice the lessons taught to journalism classes at Northeastern. Many journalism students, especially the international grad students, have had little exposure to covering news before attending classes here. *Global Observer* teaches them about reporting and writing, editing, and running a newsroom. They learn journalistic skills while writing about issues that matter to the international student community in the U.S., but are often overlooked in other publications. It is online at <https://gobserver.net/>.

• What are the goals?

-- Teach and reinforce the principles of good journalism, such as accuracy and powerful writing. Students learn how to interview people and create podcasts and videos. They undergo a rigorous editing process, which is overseen by a professional journalist with more than three decades of experience.

-- Provide a writing and reporting platform for international journalism students, many of whom are intimidated either by language or cultural issues from working for other sites at school.

-- There are goals beyond the classroom too: Provide a more nuanced view of international life for Western audiences. The students write about their home countries with a deep understanding of the issues at play that often eludes outside journalists.

The students' stories have been powerful: The students were among the first to report, in text and video, what life was like in Wuhan, China, during the coronavirus lockdown and how the government in India could use the epidemic to strengthen surveillance.

Their work has attracted widespread regional attention -- for instance, the Boston Globe has written about GO, and the local CBS News Affiliate did a story as well.