

The **EDUCATION ABROAD** Network

An Adventure In **MIND**®



Summer 2010 – Australian Environment, Wildlife and Conservation

Dates: June 14 – July 25, 2010

PRICE: \$5,650 – 2009 (2010 fee TBD)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: From its rainforests, coastlines and coral reefs to its arid interior, Australia offers a diverse range of natural and cultural landscapes and ecosystems to explore. Evolving from origins in ancient Gondwana and millions of years of geographic isolation, Australia boasts geographical and natural features found nowhere else in the world.

This program offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore, experience and learn about the physical and biological nature of selected Australian landscapes and the unique flora and fauna that have evolved with them. Students will see Australia firsthand through the eyes of professionals working for conservation agencies and those of Aboriginal (indigenous) people. The program outlines and exposes students to the challenges in managing natural and cultural heritage in the 21st century. There is a strong emphasis on Aboriginal perspectives of the Australian landscape and its importance to this ancient culture.

This course is an introductory level science course, which does not require prior knowledge and understanding of tertiary level biological science. However, biology students would have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, particularly in the conservation management area. Care has been taken to secure experienced guides and speakers for the delivery of this course to ensure a first class educational and cultural experience.

LOCATIONS AND GUIDED TRAVEL: Students will start their course in Darwin, at the “Top End” of Australia, including a three-day camping expedition to the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park to experience its spectacular scenery and its distinctive plants and animals. From Darwin, they will journey to the “red centre”, the spiritual heart of Australia. The stay here will highlight the significance of Australia’s natural heritage to its indigenous people and provide an Aboriginal perspective on conservation management. The program will visit Alice Springs Desert Park, Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas).

Weeks 3-5 will be based at The University of New South Wales, located 20 minutes from downtown Sydney. Three of these days will be spent exploring the ancient and dramatic landforms of the Blue Mountains. Drawing on the journey from Darwin to Sydney and through a combination of field trips and classroom-based study, students will learn that conservation is landscaped-based, integrates natural and cultural values and incorporates the conservation of biodiversity, wilderness, significant natural landforms and indigenous heritage. There will also be time to study some of Australia’s unique flora and fauna, including marsupials such as the kangaroo and koala.

The course will then move to the tropical far-north of Australia with a stay in the Daintree Rainforest, the only place in the world where reef meets rainforest. The program concludes in Cairns, from where students will explore the Great Barrier Reef.

COMPREHENSIVE FEE INCLUDES: The program fee includes tuition (worth 6 UNSW credits, generally 6-8 US credits); all accommodation; excursion costs; airport shuttle services; orientation programs; and a UNSW student card (allowing access to all UNSW facilities); all meals when camping in Kakadu National Park and during the Daintree Rainforest visit, breakfasts and lunches in Sydney and the Blue Mountains, breakfasts and final dinner in Cairns. Additionally, a breakfast will be provided in central Australia this year, to help alleviate student finances at this expensive location. The program fee does not include other meals or airfares.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Students should be currently en-rolled at an approved degree-granting institution of higher education. Currently, there is a 2.8 minimum GPA requirement for this program. This course is an introductory level science course and assumes no or very little previous tertiary level biological science.

CREDIT: Participants in the program are able to obtain credits through universities and colleges in the United States and Europe. This program is approved by UNSW and students will receive their grades on a UNSW transcript. Credit transfer (generally 6-8 U.S. credits total) is subject to home institution regulations so students are encouraged to consult their academic advisor for guidance. Study Australia and UNSW will provide all documentation to U.S. institutions to assist in credit transfer.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students will be housed in a variety of accommodation styles when travelling, including shared, budget-style accommodation, serviced apartments and a few nights camping.

TEACHING: Course size is restricted to thirty students allowing greater student participation and a more hands-on approach to learning. Teaching will be done by UNSW and DEC lecturers. In addition, there will be over 100 other U.S. study abroad students participating in other UNSW summer courses. Most will be following similar itineraries, thus allowing for participants to meet and interact with other students.

TRAVEL: International air travel is organized through Qantas. Packages have been designed to allow students to spend time in the tropical north of Australia on the Great Barrier Reef at the completion of the program, or in a host of destinations such as New Zealand or Hawaii on their return to the US, at little or no extra cost. Upon application participants will be provided complete airfare details.

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Rules and Procedures

Study Australia/The Education Abroad Network is a premier full-service study-abroad program for students wishing to acquire a unique academic and cultural experience by living and studying in the South Pacific or Asia. Ten years of running programs with our partner universities has given Study Australia/The Education Abroad Network extensive experience in the design, delivery, and servicing of educational opportunities.

We take pride in the “hands-on” approach undertaken by our staff, as well as the structured, hassle-free programs and services we provide from start to finish. Compare other programs with ours, and we are confident that we provide unmatched personalized service, quality, options and flexibility for your study-abroad adventure.

APPLICATION DEADLINE – Applications are assessed on a rolling basis until all spots are filled. We suggest interested students apply by March 1st to avoid disappointment. However, all spots could fill before March 1st. For further details, please visit <http://study-australia.com/>.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – Students should be currently enrolled at an approved degree-granting institution of higher education have completed one year of coursework on a college or university campus by the program start date, and achieved a minimum GPA of 2.8/4.0.

GRADING – All grades are letter grades. Study Australia/The Education Abroad Network can easily supply U.S. institutions with grading equivalency information for ease of credit transfer.

PASSPORTS, VISA AND IMMUNIZATIONS – All students must possess a valid passport in order to participate on the program. **Passports must be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the return date.** For more information on applying for a passport, please visit the following link: <http://www.usps.com/passport/>. For more information on renewing an expired passport, please visit the following link: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html.

A Student Visa is not required for the time abroad on the short term programs. Students will only require an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) or “Tourist Visa,” as they will be in the country for less than three months.

Students are not required to undergo any immunizations for this period of study in Australia. For details regarding any recommended immunizations, please visit the Center for Disease Control’s web site at www.cdc.gov/travel/.

COMPREHENSIVE FEE EXCLUSIONS – All other meals (surpassing those included); Passport fees; Personal expenses; Visa expenses; Travel insurance; all Airfares; and all other items not specifically mentioned in the Comprehensive Fee Inclusions.

PAYMENT OF FINAL FEES – Payment of final fees will be due on or before **May 15th**. Participants will remit payment of final fees to Study Australia. For students wishing to utilize financial aid to finance their term abroad, we urge them to contact their home university financial aid office as soon as possible if they will, or think they may, need to apply for financial assistance. In addition, for those intending to apply for additional loans, please note that the application process may take several months. As such, please plan accordingly.

WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

1. No cancellation fee for students withdrawing prior to submission of the program deposit and full program fees.
2. For students withdrawing after submission of the program deposit, the deposit is fully refundable less a \$150 administrative fee if withdrawn **before March 15th**.
3. **After March 15th**, the \$1000 program deposit is no longer refundable.
4. For students withdrawing after submission of the full program fees, a refund is based upon recoverable costs. **FULL PROGRAM FEES** may be forfeited.
5. **If a student withdraws 30 days or less prior to departure for the program, the program fees are not refundable.** For students with pre-existing medical conditions, we encourage the purchase of Trip Cancellation Insurance. This insurance may be purchased via the travel agent or other travel service providers.
6. In the event that the program fees increase by more than 10% (due to general inflation), a student may cancel without penalty.
7. No refund will be given to students who wish to omit portions of the program.
8. **Notice of withdrawal from the program must be submitted via the official “withdrawal form” available via the Study Australia web site (<http://www.study-australia.com/>).**

STUDY AUSTRALIA/THE EDUCATION ABROAD NETWORK

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