



# Managing Sustainability in the Philippines

## June – July 2020

### OVERVIEW

This research in Bohol, Philippines provides an opportunity for Western undergraduate students studying Science to engage in a global experience via a short-term, funded New Colombo Plan (NCP) mobility program.

This research work will take a deeper look at how a small tourist destination is changing in response to increased tourism and development challenges, in one of the Philippines's most beautiful tourist destinations. Students will have the opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice in researching the sustainability of energy, water, ecology, natural resource management, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

During this research program, students will experience and immerse themselves in the rich Filipino culture, engage with various stakeholders and undertake research work into how to improve the environmental outcomes in the face of rapid development. Students will undertake their own research projects that will generate data that will be used in the future management of these beautiful locations.

**DESTINATION:**  
Bohol, Philippines

**TRAVEL DATES:**  
Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (TBC - this will be the winter session break)

**SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE:**  
\$3,000 per student funded via the New Colombo Plan

**NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SPOTS:** Funds are available for up to 20 students

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:**  
Students will need to enrol into either:  
102212 *Internship and Community Engagement* (Spring 2020)  
OR,  
301212 *Science of the Anthropocene* (Autumn 2020) as part of this trip

**ONLINE APPLICATION DUE DATE:** Submissions close on **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, at 11:59PM

**QUESTIONS:**  
Please contact Dr Jason Reynolds  
[j.reynolds@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:j.reynolds@westernsydney.edu.au)

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Undergraduate WSU students who are enrolled in **any Science** degree (any discipline) who can:

- Demonstrate strong academic performance and have completed at least 60cps by the time of departure;
- Provide a 250 word justification that demonstrates how they can contribute to the program; and
- Has a valid passport with at least 6 months' validity (or be able to organise once accepted)

### WHY APPLY?

- Receive a funded travel grant which looks great on your CV.
- Enhance your career prospects as employers look on international experiences favorably.
- Gain academic credit for the trip.
- Conduct research in an international setting and see science in action.





### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE \$3,000 TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP?

- Return economy airfares
- Twin-shared accommodation in a hotel with breakfast daily
- Lunch some days
- Select tours and guides
- Private transport while in-country to all activities/visits
- Academic support
- WSU Corporate Travel Insurance

### WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR?

- Dinners most nights
- Other meals, snacks and beverages not included in your itinerary
- Any personal expenses or purchases, private transport or independent tours you undertake
- Passport renewal/application (if applicable)
- Vaccinations (consult your GP)

Your trip budget depends on your lifestyle. We recommend to all our students to take around AUD\$400 - \$1,000 for in-country expenses.

### NCP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Outlined by DFAT, to be eligible to apply for funding applicants must:

- be an Australian citizen. Applicants cannot undertake an NCP Scholarship in a host location in which they hold dual citizenship or permanent residency or in which they have previously been a citizen or permanent resident;
- be currently enrolled in units at Western Sydney University, and have completed at least 60 Western Sydney University credit points;
- be undertaking a Bachelor Degree during the scholarship period;
- be between the ages of 18 – 28 years old (exceptions may apply)
- not be a previous recipient of a New Colombo Plan Mobility Scholarship; and
- enrol in one of the designated units (see next section)

### UNITS OF STUDY:

1. **Science of the Anthropocene OR**
2. **Internship and Community Engagement**

This trip is supported via unit [301212 Science of the Anthropocene](#) and [102212 Internship and Community Engagement](#). Students are **required** to be enrolled in one of these units.

As part of this trip, students will undertake their own research work in small teams on topics related to their areas of study. Previous trips have included issues on water quality, soil and agriculture, microplastics on tourist beaches, and issues on human health and nutrition.

The research undertaken during this trip will contribute to part of either 301212 (Autumn) or 102212 (Spring). Students will need to enrol in one of these units and complete the assessment requirements.



## DRAFT TRIP ITINERARY

Tentative travel dates are Sunday, 28 Jun to Saturday, 16 July 2020. Please note day-day activities are subject to change, and travel dates are dependent on flight availability and still to be confirmed. There are a number of free days allocated in your program, as well as time most evenings. It is expected students will participate in all scheduled activities.

DATE	ACTIVITY
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Travel Day (Fly Sydney to Manilla). Check-in at hotel.
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Transit day (Fly Manilla to Panglao). Check-in at hotel. Group welcome dinner.
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Cultural immersion day and group meetings. Tours of local sites and tourist activities in the region.
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Meetings with local government agencies and local networks. Briefings on current issues and programs being undertaken.
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	Student project organisation - project design and planning
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Student project organisation - finalisation of planning
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Free day for independent activities/leisure/rest.
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Free day for independent activities/leisure/rest.
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Week-long research projects undertaken. Students working in groups.
Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Free day for independent activities/leisure/rest.
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Free day for independent activities/leisure/rest.
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Local school visits and community day
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Group projects celebration
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Travel day. Panglao - Manilla and Manilla - Sydney
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Arrival back in Sydney. Conclusion of program.

A detailed itinerary will be provided to accepted students closer to the travel date.



## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- Students must ensure they possess a current Australian passport with 6 months validity after date of return.
- Students without a passport or an expired passport can apply but must provide proof of lodgment with their application.
- Students do not require a visa for travel to the Philippines
- The University will make all travel bookings and arrangements on behalf of the students. We will keep students informed as relevant details emerge.
- Students are covered by Western Sydney University travel insurance for the duration of the program.
- Any personal activities outside of the scheduled itinerary may not be covered (like adventure sports or diving) and should be done under their own personal insurance policy. It is up to the student to organise this at their own expense.

## CANCELLATION AND FUNDING

- In the event that the program is canceled prior to departure due to unforeseen circumstances or safety issues, students will not incur a cost for this program.
- Should a student decide to cancel after being accepted they may be required to reimburse the trip amount, or portion of, up to the value of AUD\$3,000.
- Should a student not complete the unit assigned to this trip they may be required to reimburse the trip amount, or portion of, up to the value of AUD\$3,000.
- Applications to withdraw from the project need to be notified in writing via email to the trip leader as soon as possible.

## WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- Application process is highly competitive and applications are assessed on their content. Funded spots are limited. Any incomplete applications will not be reviewed. We should have an outcome a few weeks after the submission date.

- Students are only eligible to receive **one** NCP mobility scholarship during their entire undergraduate degree.
- Students must participate in a mandatory pre-departure workshop prior to the study tour.
- Students may be asked to attend post trip events and/or to give a short presentation about their travel experience.
- Students with pre-existing medical issues are strongly advised to contact their health practitioner before applying. By accepting this travel opportunity, students indicate that they are fit and able to participate in all travel related activities. Students are asked to disclose any medical conditions to staff prior to traveling that may impact on the program.
- As a representative of Western Sydney University students are at all times subject to the Student Code of Conduct, Travel Policy and Misconduct Rule Policy.
- **Please read Smart Traveller website for further information regarding travel in the Philippines before applying.**

## READY TO APPLY?

Please complete your [expression of interest form](#) (click the link) online. Please fill out all sections of the form and submit before closing date. No incomplete or late applications will be reviewed. It will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete.

# ONLINE APPLICATION CLOSE ON SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

## QUESTIONS ABOUT APPLYING, ELIGIBILITY OR THE TRIP?

Please contact Dr Jason Reynolds, the trip leader, on [j.reynolds@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:j.reynolds@westernsydney.edu.au) with your inquiry.

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Online application period</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> August to 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Students notified of outcome</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>Pre-Departure workshop</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 (TBC)
<b>Arrival in Philippines</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 (TBC)
<b>Return to Sydney</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (TBC)