University of the South Pacific, Fiji  
Tropical Marine Ecosystems  
25th January – 12th February 2010

PLEASE NOTE: Some details may change – always check with Macquarie Abroad for the most up to date information. Last updated 07/09/09.

Overview
The University of the South Pacific is the premier institution of higher learning for the Pacific region, uniquely placed in a region of extraordinary physical, social and economic diversity.

Established in 1968, USP is one of only two universities of its type in the world. It is jointly owned by the governments of 12 member countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa. The University has campuses in all member countries. The main campus, Laucala, is in Fiji.

Student Profile
This program is appropriate for any student with a background in biology and an interest in tropical marine environments. Students must have completed 20 credit points of study at Macquarie University, which must include:

- BIOL l14 Evolution and Biodiversity
- GEOS 116 Marine Geoscience

Topics
TBC

Outcomes
- Credit points for BIOL245 towards a Macquarie award program

Student Numbers
A maximum of 20 students may participate on the course.

Timing and Duration of the Program
The course runs from 25th January – 12th February 2010. Students must be present at USP for the entire duration of the course.
Living Arrangements and Costs
Accommodation is included in the logistics fee for the program.

Students will stay in shared accommodation at the Waqavuka apartments and plantation houses (pictured below).

The flats have basic cooking facilities, and are close to shops and a cafe. Bathrooms are shared. The accommodation is within walking distance of the lecture halls at USP.

Cultural Components
The course consists of fifteen field trips to study marine ecosystems and will also include an overnight trip to a traditional Fijian village, where students will experience Fijian culture and gain an understanding of the impact of modern life in traditional societies.

Assignment and Assessment
TBC

Credit
Students are required to enrol in BIOL245 to participate in this course. Credit will be given as BIOI245, which offers three credit points of 200-level Biology credit.

Costs
The Logistics Fee for this program is AU$2,500.
This does not include the cost of enrolment at Macquarie. This is also separate from the $110 application fee (which is used towards the full cost of the program).
This fee includes:

- Accommodation for the duration of the program in a single room with shared bathroom and kitchen.
- All field trips undertaken as part of the course
- Textbooks and stationery required for the course
- Overnight visit to a Fijian village (including meals during the visit)
- Welcome and farewell cocktails
- Lonely Planet of your destination country plus a voucher for a Macquarie t-shirt

Students should also expect to pay the following amounts:

- Airfare - $600 – 1,000 (depending on time of booking)
- Enrolment at Macquarie (this is the standard HECS or full fee Macquarie enrolment amount)
- Meals for the duration of the course
- Other living expenses

Application Process and Deadline and Selection Criteria
Students must apply, online, to Macquarie Abroad no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The application must be completed online and is available (with instructions) at www.international.mq.edu.au/abroad.

Successful students will then be guided through the rest of the application process.

Evaluation
Students will be required to complete an online evaluation for Macquarie International. Students may also be required to undertake evaluations from the host institution.

Travel Grant
Each eligible student participating on the program will receive a Macquarie travel grant of $1,000. These grants will be paid directly into students' bank accounts following the compulsory pre-departure session, provided students have attended all required information sessions, enrolled in the required unit at Macquarie, and have academic approval to participate in the course.

Notes for International Students
International students must still comply with Australian visa conditions for class attendance and pass
rates whilst overseas – general requirements for international students, as dictated by the ESOS Act, must still be met. Contact DIMIA at 131881 for more information.

International students are permitted to travel home before and/or after their program, except where logistic fees include group flights that cannot be amended.

**Main Contact People**

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