PACE International Program

PROJECT INFORMATION (as at 11th March 2011)

Project Title: Borneo PACOS Trust – Academic International Placement
Location: Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia
Project Dates: 26th June to 23rd July 2011

Academic Contacts:
- Early Childhood – Marianne Fenech marianne.fenech@mq.edu.au / Manjula Waniganayake manjula.waniganayake@mq.edu.au
- Law – Debra Ronan - debra.ronan@mq.edu.au
- Marketing & Management – Leanne Carter - leanne.carter@mq.edu.au

Number of Volunteers: Approximately 6 in total

Program Structure
This four week international placement will group students from three different areas of the university – Early Childhood, Law and Marketing & Management working with our partner organisation PACOS Trust. Each academic unit will have different learning objectives and assessment requirements, although all will participate in the project for the same period of time and work together as a team to reach the outlined goals and objectives of PACOS Trust.

This project is part of the Participation and Community Engagement (PACE) Initiative. PACE International is jointly managed by Macquarie University and Australian Volunteers International. Successful participants will need to participate in pre-departure face to face and online training, and other requirements of participation. For further information please see the PACE International web page - http://www.international.mq.edu.au/volunteer/abroad

About the Partner
PACOS Trust (PACOS) is a community based voluntary organisation based in Sabah (Borneo), Malaysia. PACOS stands for Partners of Community Organisations, as PACOS supports community organisations in 14 geographic areas in Sabah. PACOS strives to empower indigenous communities through:

Further info: email paceinternational@mq.edu.au or phone 02 9850 9927
- Systematic building and strengthening of community organisations;
- Strengthening indigenous knowledge systems on natural resource management;
- Strengthening positive indigenous values and institutions.

PACOS supports networks of indigenous organisations that are protecting and promoting their resources and indigenous systems. Programme and activity areas include:

**Land Rights** – The Native Customary Rights (NCR) provided for in the Sabah Land Ordinance of 1930 grants native title to customary land. This programme assists communities in asserting their rights over their traditional lands.

**Resource Management** – This programme aims to enhance the capacity of communities to manage their own resources in a sustainable way using their own traditional resource management systems such as “tagal”. PACOS also provides advocacy assistance to communities facing issues around conflict between economic development and sustainable resource management.

**Community Education** – Basic and advanced training are given to indigenous preschool teachers so that they can run their community preschools in a manner that allows the child to be educated in the modern way and yet be rooted in his or her indigenous roots. A curriculum focusing on the indigenous learning concept is constantly being refined to suit the needs and aspirations of communities. Community involvement is part and parcel of PACOS’s Early Child Care and Development (ECCD) training and support.

**Socio-Economic Development** – This programme supports communities to initiate social enterprise projects with the aim of developing alternative income sources, self-reliance and independence.

PACOS is also involved in public awareness activities on a range of issues, particularly related to the recognition of indigenous people's rights, bio-piracy, gender, health, environment, sustainable development and rural development.

For more information about PACOS Trust please go to their website - [http://www.pacostrust.org](http://www.pacostrust.org)

**Early Childhood**
Unit – **ECED826 Leading and Managing Early Childhood Services**
This placement will provide an opportunity to work alongside community members, families, and teachers providing early childhood care and services. Students will learn about local early childhood practices, challenges, social policies through direct community engagement. The work will involve assisting PACOS Trust to develop community education training programs provided for workers in community preschools, and to create resources and toolkits for use by local practitioners.

**Law**
Unit – **LAW488 Access to Justice Placement Program**
Participation in this international placement will provide students with an opportunity for field based practical experience. Participants would be assigned to one of the PACOS programme areas, to work with the staff and their lawyers on key issues for the programme at that time. Students would undertake legal research for PACOS on both case and policy issues, and may have the opportunity to attend and observe court and/or commission hearings. For example, PACOS are currently preparing a submission on land rights issues for a commission inquiry being held by the Malaysian Commission on Human Rights. This placement opportunity may suit students interested in environmental law, land rights, and human rights.

**Marketing & Management**
Unit – **FBE300 Student Leadership in Community Engagement**
This placement will provide students with the opportunity to work with the staff of PACOS Trust. Particular activities and outcomes will be established depending on the experience and skills of the student and where they can be best put to use for the partner. Examples of the type of work are; identification of organisational resources and systems that PACOS could develop to support the placement of interns and volunteers, assisting PACOS to develop HR policies and / or reviewing and developing a marketing strategy for a community-based social enterprise. These opportunities may suit students with experience and / or interest in HR/Organisational Development and Marketing.

Note: the above project information is a guide only as final projects and outputs are subject to the partner organisation’s needs.

**Selection Criteria**
- Academic Standing (minimum GPA of 2.0)
- Eligibility for Unit (as outlined above)
- Cross cultural sensitivity and relevant experience
- Independence, Initiative and Flexibility

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- Ability to work with others in complex environments
- Patience and understanding of local work ethics and practises

**Unit Specific Selection Criteria**

**Early Childhood**
- TBC

**Law**
- Completion of at least 12 points of 300 level units
- Excellence in presenting and communicating legal findings and research
- Experience in legal practice and case work

**Marketing & Management**
- TBC

**Cost Information**

The program fee includes:

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<th>Health and police checks</th>
<th>In-country orientation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Travel insurance</td>
<td>Pre-departure briefings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport transfers</td>
<td>Shared accommodation</td>
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<tr>
<td>All meals at Volunteer House</td>
<td>Transport to/from project sites</td>
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<td>Project activity costs</td>
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You will be responsible for the Program Fee: Between AUD$1,800 - $2,300 – To be confirmed once numbers determined.

Plus other travel expenses including:

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<th>International return flights</th>
<th>Vaccinations</th>
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<td>New/renewed passport &amp; Visas</td>
<td>Optional Activities</td>
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Other costs may include: Phone calls, Laundry, Internet and spending money. These costs will vary depending on your individual needs.

**Participation Grant**

A participation grant of AUD$1,500 will be awarded to eligible participants who have been offered a position on the program and will be processed internally upon acceptance.

**Refund Policy**

PACE International continuously monitors travel advice from the Australian Government in regards to any changes in safety conditions. Program fees paid will be refunded if the program is cancelled; this decision is at the discretion of Macquarie University. Should a chosen participant decide to withdraw, part or all of their program fee will be forfeited. A full refund policy will be provided upon selection into the program.

**How to apply**

Applications are open to all Macquarie University students who meet the selection criteria and who apply by the closing date of **Sunday 27th March 2011**. Participants will be selected based on their responses in the Application Form and an interview.

Application Forms are available at: [www.international.mq.edu.au/paceinternational](http://www.international.mq.edu.au/paceinternational)