

# 2020 NEW COLOMBO PLAN MOBILITY GRANT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Nha Trang University  
Vietnam  
Mid-late June, 2020  
(session 1-2 break)

10 scholarships are available for a unique opportunity to value-add your degree and gain insight into tropical marine biodiversity, aquaculture and environmental management in Vietnam.

Scholarships will cover tuition (Vietnamese language training, lectures, hands-on practicals and field trips), accommodation and contribution towards the airfares. Activities will include field trips to-



Diamond Bay seagrass surveys



Mun Island Conservation park (snorkelling)



Floating fish farms



Prawn aquaculture



Great food



Wet markets



Seafood processing factory



Cultural sites



Don Siep Is. Fishing village

Applications due 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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## Background

The New Colombo Plan is an initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia. It provides funding to Universities to support Australian undergraduates to undertake short-term study programs and Internships in hosts countries in the region. Building on the highly successful 2016 New Colombo Plan Mobility Program on Tropical Marine Biodiversity and Aquaculture in Nha Trang, Vietnam, SCU has been successful in securing a further 3 years of funding (2018-2020). In 2020, Prof Kirsten Benkendorff will accompany 10 undergraduate students on a two week intensive program in Vietnam.

Nha Trang is located on the central coast of Vietnam with easy access to Marine Parks, fishery ports and a diversity of aquaculture farms, as well as many significant cultural sites (refer to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nha\\_Trang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nha_Trang)). SCU has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Nha Trang University (NTU) to facilitate student and academic exchange for research and training. Nha Trang University (<http://ntu.edu.vn/en/HOME.aspx>) is a leading institute for undergraduate training and postgraduate research for the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Vietnam. They have a long history of successful international cooperative partnerships and many well established industry partnerships to education that is responsive to the socio-economic development of Vietnam.

## Tropical Marine Biodiversity and Aquaculture Program

In collaboration with NTU Department of External affairs, we have developed a specially tailored intensive course covering: 1) tropical marine aquaculture, 2) tropical marine biodiversity and 3) people and livelihoods in Vietnam, with some introductory Vietnamese language lessons. The program will include a mix of introductory and guest lectures, practical classes/project work and field trips. Specific topics and activities will include:-

- 1) Opening ceremony – welcome and introductions, campus tour
- 2) Vietnamese people and livelihoods
  - a. Introduction to Vietnamese culture (lecture)
  - b. Introduction to the Vietnamese language
  - c. Tour of the old city, visit to Buddhist temple and Cham temple
  - d. Vietnamese water puppets
  - e. Vietnamese handcraft (XO Embroidery House)
  - f. Free time for beach, markets, shopping etc
  - g. Many amazing Vietnamese meals, including opening and farewell banquets!
- 3) Tropical Marine Ecosystems
  - a. Introduction to marine biodiversity and ecosystem management in Vietnam (Lecture)
  - b. Mun Island Conservation park, snorkelling on coral reef
  - c. Salang Island (optional)
  - d. Intertidal rock platform and/or beach debris survey (project options)
  - e. Visit to the Institute of Oceanography (museum and aquarium)
- 4) Tropical Marine Aquaculture
  - a. Introduction to aquaculture in Vietnam (Lecture)
  - b. Cam Ranh Aquaculture station of NTU
  - c. Floating fish farms boat trip
  - d. Land based aquaculture farms (prawn, molluscs and/or fish)
  - e. Aquatic animal health & breeding research facilities (NTU)

- 5) Seafood and fisheries livelihoods
  - a. Introduction to Vietnamese fishermen and fishing boats (lecture)
  - b. Visit to a fishing port
  - c. Visit to wet (seafood) market
  - d. Visit to Diep Son Islands fishing village
  - e. Introduction to seafood economics, processing and export (lecture)
  - f. Visit to seafood processing factories in Khanh Ho
- 6) Closing ceremony, reflections and feedback.

### Academic Assessment

The New Colombo Plan must contribute towards your degree. For most students the best option is to enroll in an Independent Science Unit. If necessary, other options for replacing an assessment item in another relevant unit can be negotiated with the relevant unit assessor.

The assessment will be based on participation, practical activities and reflection.

1) Participation marks will include:-

- a. Attendance and attentiveness (showing up on time, listening and remaining alert during lectures and activities)
- b. Engagement and commitment (actively participating in practical activities, positive interactions with lecturers, other students, the broader Vietnamese community, positive attempts to learn some basic Vietnamese phrases)
- c. Suitability as an ambassador for SCU (Cultural awareness, appropriate behavior, suitable dress, ability to create a good impression)
- d. Group presentations from project work

2) Practical activities will be assessed using:-

- a. A field trip & laboratory note book (detailing dates, location, types of activities, summary of any “results” – e.g. from marine surveys or sorting activities and some reflection on the findings or personal impressions).
- b. A short survey at the seafood fishing port or wetmarket
- c. Institute of Oceanography, species taxonomy assignment

3) Reflections will be assessed by:-

- a. A brief verbal report to Nha Trang lecturers at the closing ceremony, providing feedback on what you enjoyed most and gained from the overall experience.
- b. A short (<1000) written report reflecting on your experience and main learning outcomes – this report could focus on one specific aspect of the program, your project work, a particular environmental issue relevant to Vietnam drawing on lectures and field trips, or provide a broader coverage of your overall impressions. It will be assessed on evidence of understanding, depth of thought and objectiveness (use of evidence to support the main points – this could include photos, quotes, references and/or logical arguments where relevant). It should be professionally presented (proof read, appropriately formatted, well structured etc).

### Pre-trip planning meetings

A few meetings will be scheduled in March – June in order to prepare for the trip. These may be in person or via Zoom for external students. The meetings will provide more information on trip, expectations, cultural preparedness and advice on applying for visas, hotel bookings etc. We will also establish a Facebook group or similar to share information and help coordinate before and during the trip.