



AUSTRALIA

6 credits, Program cost and admin. fee (TBA), plus VT summer tuition
June 24 – July 19, 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 3.5-week, 6-credit experiential program uses the theme of sustainable development to explore the relationship between people and their natural environment. North Queensland boasts some of the most diverse and remarkable natural resources in the southern hemisphere.

We spend the first week on Magnetic Island, just offshore from the city of Townsville, taking classes with leading Australian experts. This is followed a 2.5-week field study of North Queensland. A typical itinerary includes snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, hiking and wildlife viewing in the Daintree rainforest, and experiencing Aboriginal culture and wildlife of the Outback.

This program can be combined with the **8-day Fiji program** and/or the **8-day Sydney program** in for up to 12 semester credits.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the program students will:

- Understand the natural history, biogeography, ecological diversity, and related social and cultural contexts of Australia through an exploration of Queensland's network of national parks and protected areas, which encompass the Outback, rainforests, coastlines, marine reserves, and offshore islands;
- Understand the impacts of human actions on the natural systems, and human responses to those changes, using the case of Queensland, Australia;
- Develop an understanding of ecological education practices, integrated natural resource management, and conservation actions throughout Queensland, Australia;
- Be able to address relationships between human societies and their natural environments from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to develop a complex, multi-faceted and holistic view of human – environment connections that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Queensland is world renowned for its spectacular natural environment and unique culture.
- You will have the chance to snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, hike through pristine rainforest, learn about Aboriginal culture, and visit the famous Outback.
- You will spend much of your time (~70%) out in the field, visiting and observing Australia first-hand. At AUIP, we believe that students learn from study abroad experiences both in and outside of the classroom.
- You will learn from leading Australian academics and professionals with expertise in subjects related to the Humans & the Environment theme.

For more information on this and other study abroad courses offered by the College of Natural Resource visit:

http://www.cnr.vt.edu/cnr_webpages/study_abroad.htm

and for applications, please go to:

www.educationabroad.vt.edu