



# NEW ZEALAND

6 credits, Program cost and admin. fee (TBA), plus VT summer tuition  
Dec 26, 2009 – Jan 18, 2010 or May 17 – June 11, 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. New Zealand's isolation, after its separation from the ancient Gondwanaland millions of years ago, has left this island nation with a unique natural heritage. The plants and animals that have evolved here are unknown elsewhere in the world.

We spend 7-days in the garden city of Christchurch taking classes with leading experts from leading Kiwi experts. This is followed a 2.5-week field study of the South Island. A typical itinerary includes Mount Cook, the wild West Coast, swimming with dolphins at Kaikoura, a guided kayak of Abel Tasman National Park, a guided hike on Fox Glacier, a sheep farm visit, a visit to a Maori marae, and a boat cruise on Milford Sound.

This program can be combined with the **8-day program in Fiji** and/or the **8-day program in Sydney** 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 New Zealand through an exploration of the South Island's network of national parks and protected areas, which encompass rainforests, glaciers, mountains, 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 New Zealand's South Island;
- Develop an understanding of ecological education practices, integrated natural resource management, and conservation actions throughout New Zealand's South Island;
- 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

- New Zealand is one of the most geographically diverse countries in the world with temperate rainforests, glaciers, golden sand beaches, deep fiords, alpine herb fields, and rugged coastlines.
- You will spend much of your time (~70%) out in the field, visiting and observing New Zealand first-hand.
- You have the chance to hike on a glacier, swim with dolphins, kayak to golden beaches, and cruise one of the largest fiords in the world

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](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/cnr_webpages/study_abroad.htm)

and for applications, please go to:

[www.educationabroad.vt.edu](http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu)