The University of Sydney was recently awarded funding through the Government’s New Colombo Plan (NCP) to facilitate six students, intending to complete a major in geography, to undertake a semester-long immersion program at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta.

**Why study geography in Indonesia?**

Geography is a predominantly field-based discipline, and the University of Sydney has a long tradition of facilitating in-country student experiences and research opportunities in Southeast Asia for geography students. This new NCP opportunity builds on this tradition by offering a semester-long immersion program of field-based learning, in association with in-country language training, to develop highly relevant skills and understanding of Australia’s nearest neighbour. Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world with one of the most dynamic economies in Asia, and yet it faces critical development challenges that are often poorly understood by many Australians. Many professional geographers develop language skills and expertise about particular world regions, and students in this program will develop a sophisticated level of cultural and geographic literacy that will significantly enhance their long-term career prospects in the Asian century.

The University of Indonesia, located within a leafy campus on the outskirts of Jakarta, is Indonesia’s leading university and will host the immersion program. The University of Sydney has already collaborated on four occasions with the Geography Department at the University of Indonesia to offer short-term field-school programs for undergraduates, and this immersion program builds on this relationship.

The geography immersion program will include:

2. Participation in the senior level field studies unit in the Geography Department at the University of Indonesia. Students will be involved in weekly planning classes in the department, culminating in a 5-day field trip outside of Jakarta in May 2015 (students will be enrolled in GEOS3054 Asia Pacific Field Studies and will be assessed through the University of Sydney),
3. An optional internship at an Indonesian-based NGO, international development agency or private sector business that can be credited towards the Diploma of Languages (June 2015).
4. Enrolment and participation in the GEOS3053 Southeast Asia Field School in Indonesia, which will involve a total of 24 students from the University of Sydney (July 2015).

**Academic Credit**

Students will be enrolled in two geography units at the University of Sydney (GEOS3053 Southeast Asia Field School and GEOS3054 Asia-Pacific Field Studies), which will contribute a combined 12 credit points towards a geography major.

Students will also be eligible to obtain up to a further 30 credit points in Indonesian language (INMS). Students are encouraged to enrol in the Diploma of Language Studies [http://sydney.edu.au/courses/Diploma-of-Language-Studies](http://sydney.edu.au/courses/Diploma-of-Language-Studies), which offers an excellent opportunity to obtain an additional qualification in addition to your current degree through this accelerated program of learning. It is also possible to allocate these credits towards elective units of study in your current degree.
Financial Support

Each successful applicant will receive funding support of $5000 through the NCP, which can be used towards: i) return airfares between Sydney and Jakarta; ii) tuition fees at the University of Indonesia; iii) visa costs; and iv) the costs of participating in the two in-country field schools. Students may require additional personal funds to cover living expenses while in Indonesia, but these are predicted to be minimal.

Mentoring Support and Pastoral Care

Students in the program will have regular contact with Dr Jeff Neilson, from the University of Sydney, who will join them in-country for part of their program. Jeff has collaborated with the University of Indonesia for 20 years and has been coordinating student field schools in Indonesia since 2011. When he is not in the country, pastoral care will be provided by the Department of Geography and staff at the BIPA program (Bahasa Indonesia for non-native speakers) at the University of Indonesia. These facilities at the University of Indonesia are experienced providers of support to international students, and will provide support to Sydney students settling in to campus life and ensuring appropriate care in the event of illness or accident while in Indonesia.

Duration of the program

Students will commence the program in January 2015 and will complete the final field school in July 2015. Students will remain in Indonesia for seven months.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible you must be:

- An Australian citizen. Applicants with dual citizenship are eligible, however you must not be an Indonesian citizen.
- Enrolled in a Bachelor’s degree program at the University of Sydney, and intending to graduate with a geography major at the University of Sydney.
- Between 18 and 28 years of age on 1 January 2015.

Application Process

It is expected that there will be considerable competition for these scholarships. To apply, please send your application via email to Jeffrey.neilson@sydney.edu.au before August 20, 2014. You should include:

1. A 500 word statement on why your participation in the program is important to your study plan at University and for your future career plans, and what additional skills and experience you can contribute to the program.
2. A copy of your academic transcript from the University showing your results so far.

Please contact Jeffrey.neilson@sydney.edu.au for further information about this opportunity.