

Australia Awards Scholarships News

Cairns
Singapore
Townsville

JCU Australia Awards Scholarships Newsletter August 2014

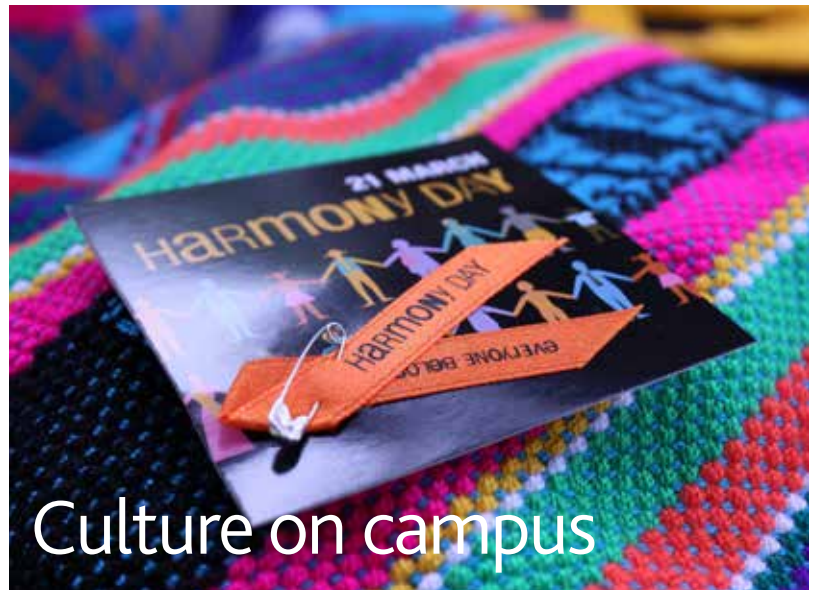


Welcome to James Cook University

Last month, JCU bid farewell to 38 of its Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS) students. The scholarship recipients graduated from a variety of study areas including Public Health, Natural Resource Management, Aquaculture, and Veterinary Sciences. While many expressed regret at leaving Australia, all graduates are now returning to their home countries with new skills and the knowledge to influence change.

This semester, JCU welcomed a group of 10 students from Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Mongolia. These students have begun their studies and have already met with other students and academic staff within the University and the general community.

The International Student Support Team at JCU continues to provide much needed support and information to all international students at JCU, including those under Australia Awards Scholarships. This team, together with the many support services in the University, plays a key role in the success of each individual student during their time at JCU. The JCU International team welcomes new AAS students and wishes all continuing students well with their studies.



As one University operating from two countries (Australia and Singapore), with three tropical campuses (Cairns, Townsville and Singapore), JCU's student population is made up of over 100 nationalities. This cultural diversity is recognised and celebrated with a variety of cultural events throughout the year. An event that has proven popular in the past is the annual *Global Village Multicultural Fair*, which takes place in Teaching Period 1. JCU comes to life with festivities, including cultural music, food, dance and fun filled activities. This event gives students the opportunity to represent their country and gives other students a taste of a culture different to their own.

On the Townsville and Cairns campuses, JCU celebrates the cultural diversity of students and staff on *Harmony Day* and the *Blessing of the Academic Year*, hosted by

the JCU Multifaith Chaplaincy Service and supported by religious and spiritual leaders from various faiths in the local community.

JCU also has the *Professional College* that hosts Cultural Competency Events on both campuses. The colleges Culture and Communication workshop gives students an understanding of the dimensions of cultural competence and how these relate to the University and wider community as they prepare for their professional life. Students have the benefit of attending *Culture and Language Club*, an initiative of the JCU Professional College. The event is an opportunity for students to take some time out, relax and share their culture through sharing traditional food, dance and customs.

Visit www.jcu.edu.au/student/events for more information.

Student Profile



Aryan Siagian O'Brien (Indonesia) *Master of Science in Marine Biology*

From the bustling city of Jakarta of 30 million people, Aryan found the move to Townsville, a city of 200,000 people, to be a terrific change. For once he did not have to compete with thousands of people for space on the train. For once he did not have to drive for two hours from home to get to work. In Townsville his daily travel to James Cook University, at the most, is 10 minutes by car. "There are a lot of empty spaces – just for me!"

A civil servant with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in Indonesia, Aryan (or Ary as he is known to his close friends) was awarded an Australia Awards Scholarship to undertake a Master of Science in Marine Biology at James Cook University starting in February 2013. His time at JCU has now come to an end and he will be returning to Indonesia this month. The knowledge and skills Aryan has learned through this program enhances his ability to perform his work in Indonesia in dealing with organisations that conduct their business along the shores of small islands in Indonesia.

In the past 18 months, Ary has been able to overcome challenges relating to language and cultural barriers.

"I learned to present information in more detail, from different angles, when communicating with people from different cultures. This is something that I will employ in my work back home". The style of teaching at James Cook University also challenged Ary to seek information outside of the lecture materials. *"It's like a real world simulation, we had to learn to find knowledge ourselves".*

During his time in Townsville, Ary was involved with the JCU Indonesian Student Association liaising between the Indonesian Student Association in Australia (PPIA) headquarters in Brisbane to the Indonesian community at JCU and in Townsville. He performed traditional Indonesian songs and dance at local festivals, schools and during special celebrations at James Cook University.

Ary is grateful for the opportunity to study in Australia under the Australia Awards Scholarships program. "Studying at James Cook University opened my mind. Meeting new friends from different countries helped me see new perspectives. Perspectives that helped shape my own ideas".

Recruitment activities and travel plans



Dining with Alumni

James Cook University staff from Student Recruitment and individual Colleges regularly attend various events and exhibitions in cities around the world. Often this presents a great opportunity for JCU representatives to meet with alumni in those cities. In June this year, Australia Awards Liaison Officer Alex Salvador and Recruitment Officer Brook Bindley hosted alumni dinners in Lae and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. In July, Brook also hosted alumni dinners in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. During these events JCU alumni who may have not known each other before the event were given a platform to network and make important connections with other professionals who have completed their studies at James Cook University. It is a valuable opportunity to meet key personnel from various organisations and government departments who share the common experience of studying at James Cook University Australia!

For information on upcoming events in your country visit www.jcu.edu.au/international/yourcountry.

Student Profile



Zeldalyn Hilly (Solomon Islands) *Master of Science in Natural Resource Management*

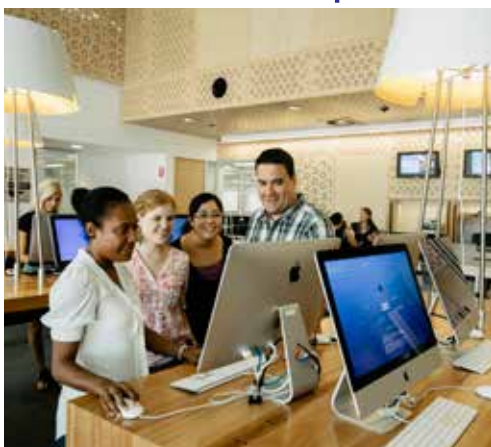
From her little hometown of Gizo in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, Zeldalyn Hilly was lured to the tropical location of James Cook University and the tropical climate of Townsville North Queensland.

Zelda, as she is known to her friends, is one of the newly arrived Australia Awards Scholars at JCU undertaking a Master of Science in Natural Resource Management. Her work in the Solomon Islands as a Research Analyst with WorldFish primarily focused on conducting research in fisheries communities, to gain understanding on how best to help them manage their coastal resources. She hopes that her involvement in the program at JCU will increase her knowledge and provide her with the necessary tools and skills to improve the management of natural resources in the Solomon Islands.

Coming from a small coastal town where most of her travel were done by boat, Zelda has found Townsville with its population of 200,000 to be 'enormous,' but relaxed and laid back. "I had expected to be up against the busy city life and losing my way around but I was pleased that it was not quite so. People are friendly and helpful".

Zelda has been in Townsville for almost two months now and has settled quite well making friends with Introductory Academic Program participants and other international students at JCU. She is also settling into her studies at JCU making the most of easy access to online material and "awesome lecturers who are very easy to talk to". "I am enjoying the learning in tutorials so far and anticipating a busy but fun semester".

Where on campus?



Students utilising one of the easily accessible computers in the new *Education Central* building.



The new *Clinical Practice Building* which houses JCU health services, a supermarket, coffee shop and pharmacy is in a convenient on-campus location.

Staff Profile



Meet the Support Team

These are the key JCU personnel responsible with assisting international students prior to their arrival in Australia, supporting them during their time here and assisting students towards the completion of their studies. Meet Tom (Manager International Student Support), Louise (Senior International Student Advisor), Alex (Australia Awards Liaison Officer), Katherine (International Student Support Officer), Tess (Administration Officer), Christine (International Student Support Officer) and Anna (Administration Officer). Together the team holds six Bachelor Degrees, two Masters Degrees and boasts over 60 years of combined experience in working with international students. They speak seven languages and have visited over 34 countries around the world. Last year the team cooked over 320kg of sausages and 200 burgers for their Free Lunch Friday and Monthly Mingle events, served almost 3,000 slices of pizza during the Welcome Sessions in both semesters and poured over 1,300 cups of tea, coffee and hot chocolate during the weekly Café International. They own a total of 7 dogs, 3 cats and 6 Guinea pigs. Their hobbies include netball, playing music, climbing Castle Hill, making homemade chilli sauce, singing, painting pictures, cooking, martial arts, building African drums, gardening, bike riding, woodworking, fitness activities, camping and more!

Course Profile

Master of Public Health (General)

Graduates of this degree display a willingness to lead and to contribute to the intellectual, environmental, cultural, economic and social challenges of regional, national, and international communities of the tropics.



This course is designed for health professionals with a suitable undergraduate degree or recognised professional qualification in a relevant discipline. It also enables qualified health professionals to gain postgraduate qualifications in the public health sector. As well as a general program there are four majors available:

- Aeromedical Retrieval
- Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness
- Communicable Disease Control
- Health Promotion

This is a flexible course. After consultation with the academic advisor, students devise a program of study in one of the four majors or a tailored/general program that suits their professional goals and interests. It provides the skills and knowledge to communicate public health information, engage in professional health practices and ensure healthy environments, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Key features

- The Anton Breinl Centre for Public Health and Tropical Medicine, which is one of the leading tropical research facilities in the world
- JCU teaching staff awarded the Australian Learning Teaching Council's National Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
- Cutting-edge teaching laboratories and research facilities

DURATION

1.5 years

PRE-REQUISITES

Completion of an AQF level 7 bachelor degree in a relevant health discipline and an IELTS score of 7.0

MID-YEAR ENTRY

Available

CAMPUS

Townsville; External

For more information about the AAS program at JCU, please visit our website: www.jcu.edu.au/international/aas