

The University of New South Wales

Faculty of Science

Date: 26 April 2006

Re : Science Without Borders

Dear Student,

Last year the Faculty of Science UNSW, in conjunction with the Faculty of Science at the National University of Singapore, offered Advanced Science students the opportunity to undertake a subsidised, short-term exchange program in Singapore in Winter session (June/July). 27 UNSW students participated and all had a great experience, educationally, socially and culturally. Last December/January, 35 Singaporean students spent 6 weeks at UNSW and they also found it a rewarding experience. Once again the program has been offered to students enrolled in the Advanced Science program and there has been a good acceptance, although not as many as last year. However we would like to send a more students than we did in 2005. Therefore the faculty has decided to offer the same opportunity to students enrolled in a number of other science programs who have demonstrated superior performance in their studies to date.

Please read the attached information and, because of the short deadline to finalise all arrangements, please respond as soon as possible if you would like to be considered. There are only a limited number of additional places. I would like to finalise numbers by the middle of next week. Although all of you will not be eligible (see criteria below), I have emailed this to all students in the selected programs who have achieved a Distinction WAM in their studies. There are 3 attachments: two publicity brochures and an application form.

If you have further questions please contact me in the Science Student Centre in the Robert Webster Building.

To assist you in making a decision please read the following in conjunction with the attachments.

Eligibility:

- You will need to have completed at least 48 units of credit (uoc) at the end of S1 2006.
- Students currently enrolled in their Honours year are not eligible.
- International students are eligible except Singaporean nationals. The UNSW exchange rules do not allow students to take exchange in their home country.

Requirements:

- You need to have 6 uoc available as an elective. Successful applicants will be enrolled in SCIF3001 for winter session 2006 and will be required to pay the appropriate tuition fees for a 6 uoc course like any other course you have taken. A combined mark from the courses you study in Singapore will be used as the mark for this course and it will count in your WAM and uoc load. If you are uncertain as to whether you have room in your program, please get in touch with me and I will look at your transcript. A number of Advanced Science students were pleasantly surprised to find out that they could accommodate SCIF3001.
- A valid passport. If you plan on coming and you don't have a passport, please apply for one immediately. Most passport holders do not need a visa for Singapore for the length of your stay (approx 5-6 weeks). However nationals from some SE Asian countries do, eg the Peoples Republic of China. If you are an international student you will need to check this with the Singaporean authorities. If your passport will expire within 6 months of your return journey (late July 2006) you will need to renew it.

Other Information:

- Departure is planned for Saturday 17th June (mid afternoon) arriving 6pm local time Saturday in Singapore (it is about a 7 hour flight). All students will travel on the same flight. You will be met at Singapore airport (by NUS students) and a coach will take you to the accommodation at NUS. Note that the departure date is the day after the S1 exams start. You will be taking your exams whilst you are in Singapore for the first two weeks. These will be held on the same day and time as they are held at UNSW. This means that for short periods you will miss out on some of the class time for the courses you are taking in Singapore. Although this is a demanding challenge in the exchange program, last years students coped very well. The examination conditions at NUS are very comfortable (and air-conditioned). You will be returning sometime in the first week of S2, so you may miss some classes. However, I am hoping that you can return on the weekend before S2 begins.
- The faculty will pay for a return economy airfare to Singapore.
- There will be no charge for tuition costs whilst at NUS including the field trip to Tioman Island
- You will incur some costs. The figures below are the best estimate I can give for the moment (\$1.00 Australian will buy \$1.19 Singapore today):
 1. Accommodation. This should be no more than 500 Singapore dollars for the 4-5 weeks whilst at the NUS campus. Accommodation, food and travel to and from Tioman Island will be covered by NUS.
 2. Living expenses, for example your food, entertainment and local travel. However Singapore is relatively cheap.
 3. Local medical insurance. This is required by NUS, even though you are covered by a UNSW policy whilst on official study away from UNSW. The cost is about 27 Singapore dollars.
 4. Student Pass. This is a requirement of the Singaporean government. For most students it is about 40 Singapore dollars, although for some international students it is 80 Singapore dollars.
- All students are required to choose one of the language courses: Chinese or Bahasa Indonesian. You need to indicate your choice on the application form. Some information about the two modules is given below.

CHINESE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This module is designed to provide an insight to Mandarin as a language and a window to Chinese culture in general. This is a beginners' course consisting of two components; language conversation and Chinese characters learning. Vocabulary items, sentence patterns and short texts will be taught. Students are expected to be able to communicate in Mandarin in simple daily situations after taking this module.

This module consists of lectures and tutorials. Classes are conducted in various ways including vocabulary introduction, short texts reading and reciting, story-telling, tongue twister practices, song learning and film appreciation if time allows.

Please note that Chinese is only available to students who have not studied or been exposed to it previously. If you have, you need to choose Bahasa Indonesian. If you know both, please get in touch with me.

BAHASA INDONESIA
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This module aims to develop language proficiency in an integrated approach. Students will acquire language skills through participation in various communicative tasks. Through the exposure to the language, students will develop a general understanding of the cultures, the sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects of the language.

By the end of the module, students will acquire basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing to maintain communication on common topics.

- The other compulsory course is the biodiversity study on Tioman Island, in the last week of your stay.
- The third course is not finalised yet, although it is expected to be in a business related area.

I encourage you to give this your serious consideration. I realise that you don't have much time to think about it and make a decision, but the faculty is keen for you to participate. I am sure that through your participation you will be challenged, learn academically and grow as a person.

I look forward to your application.

With best wishes,

Ian McFarlane.

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