



program snapshot

- Innovative academic offerings within the Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental Science, and Life Sciences; independent study option
- On-site, full-time local academic and personal support
- Volunteer opportunities with various local conservation projects and at the Environmental Technology Centre; Sustainable Development Internship
- Educational excursions including one to the Northwest of Western Australia
- Weekend homestays with rural families

what you'll learn

The Sustainability and the Environment program is designed to provide the opportunity for students to learn about the impact that industries such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism have on the environment. Students have the opportunity to take courses that teach them to be both scientifically competent and well-versed on public policy issues in Australia. Students gain an understanding of the Australian environment and society, while pursuing an exceptional range of academic and recreational opportunities.

thoughts from abroad

Students will study and observe environmental and sustainable policies and see them in practice in a natural environment. During their time here, they will experience the amazing natural environment, along with friendly people. The climate and pristine environment, from the temperate rain forest of the southwest to the tropical beaches and national park lands of the north, make outdoor sports and recreation possible all year-round. Spending a semester or year here will give students the opportunity to experience our unique flora and fauna, including diving with the world's largest fish—the whale shark, snorkeling with sea turtles, swimming with wild dolphins, walking amongst the tops of ancient trees, sleeping under a canopy of stars in the Outback, or surfing some of the best surf breaks in the world at Margaret River.

Life in both Perth and Fremantle, the smaller port town eight miles down river from the city of Perth where the University is located, offers everything one would expect from a vibrant cosmopolitan city.

— Paul Hollick, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Paul Hollick has worked with the CIEE program in Perth since 2001 and has a wide range of experience in the fields of tertiary and sports administration and recreation. His work with CIEE has given him considerable experience in revealing his native state of Western Australia to students from across the U.S. Though he has lived most of his life in Perth, Paul has traveled extensively in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Paul's B.S.c degree in Environmental Science from Edith Cowan University is just one part of his life-long commitment to the environment and all things green. His other interests include football, rugby, camping, water sports, and all outdoor recreation.

About the Program Coordinator

Isabella Jennings completed a double major in Population and World Resources and Mathematics at Murdoch University in 1990 before completing a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education. Isabella formerly worked as Sustainability Officer for the City of Fremantle.

about perth

Perth is the state capital of Western Australia. With a population of 1.5 million people, its many contrasts range from skyscrapers and nightlife to over 30 miles of white sandy beaches. It is ranked Australia's most environmentally attractive city, has more hours of sunshine than any other Australian city, and was ranked in a 2002 survey as one of the world's top three lifestyle destinations. The local population enjoys a cosmopolitan outdoor lifestyle; first-class cultural, social, and recreational amenities; and excellent proximity to the major cities of Asia.

academics

Academic Program

Established in 1991 as the first CIEE program in Australia, the CIEE Study Center at Murdoch University has hosted hundreds of students from universities across the U.S. The CIEE Study Center provides a supportive, yet challenging environment in which to study and gain firsthand knowledge of Australian life and culture.

The Sustainability and the Environment program, which opened in 2009, provides focused programming to students interested in issues of sustainability through coursework in the following disciplines: sustainability studies, public policy, planning, legal studies, environmental science, and the biological sciences. The program aims to develop the student's knowledge and skills to meet the global needs of current and future generations. This is accomplished through integrated coursework in the environmental, sustainability, and biological sciences.

Academic Culture

All courses are taught by Murdoch faculty, with Murdoch staff enjoying one of the highest proportions of doctorates of all Australian universities. Murdoch University uses a point system, and the normal full-time course load is 12 points each semester, which is equivalent to 15 U.S. semester credits. Most Murdoch subjects are designated as either three- or four-point classes. Students are eligible to enroll in any course for which they are qualified.

The approach to teaching in Australian universities requires that students take a great deal of responsibility for their own learning. A typical subject consists of two hours of lectures and one to two hours of tutorials and, in the sciences lab work, per week. Many science classes also involve fieldwork. While contact hours are not high, students are expected to undertake a significant amount of directed

reading on their own time. Self-motivation and self-discipline are encouraged by the Australian system.

The Murdoch University academic year lasts from early February through the end of November and is divided into two semesters. Semester I (early February to mid-June) corresponds to the spring semester at U.S. institutions and Semester II (late July to late November) corresponds to the U.S. fall semester. The program at Murdoch University is offered both semesters and consists of a one-week orientation, 12 weeks of classes, a two-week mid-semester break, a one-week study period, and a two-week final exam period. The academic year program consists of two consecutive semesters and may follow the U.S. academic year (Semester II and Semester I) or the Australian calendar year (Semester I followed by Semester II). Students who apply for the U.S. academic year program can take advantage of the three-month summer (Christmas) break to work or travel in the region.

Nature of Classes

Participants enroll directly in host university courses and take classes with Australian students.

Grading System

Assessment is normally based on essays, project reports, midterms, tutorial/seminar participation and performance, and practical and final exams. Murdoch University employs a five-point grading system: High Distinction (HD); Distinction (D); Credit (C); Pass (P); and Fail (F). Grades are converted to a U.S. grading scale.



where you'll study

Murdoch University is one of Australia's leading universities, and the only university in the country to achieve *The Good Universities Guide's* five-star rating for graduate satisfaction for 12 out of the last 13 years. Over 15,000 students are enrolled in the three major academic divisions: arts; science and engineering; and health sciences. Over 2,000 international students from approximately 40 different countries are currently enrolled. Murdoch University is situated in the suburbs of Perth (30 minutes from downtown), and students usually divide their social time between the city centers of Perth and Fremantle, both easily accessible by public transportation.

living

Housing and Meals

Students are assigned furnished housing on campus at Murdoch University Village, which provides high-quality, multicultural living facilities. A range of modern, fully furnished five bedroom apartments, with private bedrooms, large kitchens, and spacious lounge areas are available to students. Contemporary solar passive design, high quality fittings, and in-room pay-per-use Internet provide functional and vibrant spaces designed specifically for the student lifestyle.

Students choosing the U.S. academic year program beginning in July are responsible for housing during the summer recess (December to mid-February). Students choosing the U.S. calendar year program beginning in February are responsible for their own housing during the recess in July. Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Perth before even leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The one-week mandatory CIEE orientation, conducted in Perth at the beginning of the program, introduces students to Australian society and culture and the academic environment at Murdoch University. It also provides practical information about living in the Perth/Fremantle area. At the end of orientation week, CIEE students participate in a weekend excursion to beautiful Rottnest Island in February, or to the temperate rain-forest region of the state's southwest in July. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Murdoch University has a fee-for-usage system for Internet access. Students add money to their Murdoch card for Internet use and are responsible for all fees. CIEE participants have access to the Internet and email in several computer labs throughout campus and at no charge at the CIEE office. In addition, students can obtain an Internet connection in on-campus housing at their own expense through a local provider.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes a variety of excursions and activities focusing on the environment and sustainable development, including trips to local sustainable housing units and protected habitats. In addition, excursions are available to learn about Australian culture, such as trips to see an Australian Rules football game, an Aboriginal Heritage Tour, bush walking, and visits to museums, theaters, and art galleries. CIEE makes the most of Western Australia's wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation. Students take part in a surfing lesson, experiencing some of the world's best surf beaches. Many students also independently achieve scuba diving certification.

In addition, there are opportunities for weekend homestays with rural families, and the chance to undertake community work in study-related areas. For an extra fee, students may also participate in additional trips arranged outside of the typical excursion program. In the past, students have traveled to Thailand and Borneo.

Northwest Excursion

The Northwest Excursion, included in the program fee, is a trip to the rugged northwest region of Western Australia to an area known as the Pilbara. The Pilbara covers close to 2,500 miles and includes plains of wild flowers and mountainous outcrops—among the oldest on earth. It is also home to some of Australia's most hardy fauna and flora. Students may come across the shy rock wallaby, the perentil lizard, grey and red kangaroos, and many other unique animals.

Monkey Mia in Shark Bay is one of the highlights of the excursion. Monkey Mia is a World Heritage Site and attracts schools of dolphins to its shores daily. It's the closest students will get to a dolphin unless they work in a marine park. Along with the dolphins live other marine life such as the Dugongs (Manatees), called the "Mermaids of the Sea," and turtles. This area is also home to our oldest living ancestors, the Stromatolites, which have evolved over three to four billion years, as well as Shell Beach, an entire beach made of shells.

Students snorkel in the Ningaloo Reef, which is also a World Heritage Site. More accessible than the Great Barrier Reef and home to as many as 500 species of tropical fish and 200 species of coral, it is home to the migratory Whale Sharks, the "gentle giants" of the sea. Humpback Whales also cruise just beyond the reef during the months of July, October, and November.

Another highlight of the excursion is Karijini National Park. Hidden among Western Australia's mining towns, this area is untouched and pristine in beauty. While enjoying the splendor of its gorges and flora and fauna, students swim in freshwater rock pools. The hikes and trails through the gorges are challenging, as well as breathtaking with their Aboriginal drawings and wildlife. Billions of years old, the rocky gorges are spectacular in formation.

Students who do not participate on the Northwest Excursion will not be reimbursed.

internship

Sustainable Development Internship

The Sustainable Development Internship provides an invaluable opportunity to acquire workplace skills, knowledge, and contacts pertaining to sustainability. Students are placed in a government agency, industry, or civil society group and work on projects relevant to sustainable development. A supervisor from within the placement and from Murdoch provides support and ensures the work experience is interesting, practical, and academically rewarding.



fremantle

Fremantle is the city closest to Murdoch University and is located approximately 12 miles southwest from downtown Perth. Fremantle is a port city located at the mouth of the Swan River on Australia's western coast. The city is popular with diners, catering to all tastes and budgets. There are numerous cafés and coffee shops situated around Fremantle, particularly on its famous "Cappuccino Strip." Fremantle is also popular place for the arts and its nightlife; it attracts people from all over the metropolitan region for its pubs, nightclubs, and art.

duration

Fall
18 weeks: late July—late November

Spring
19 weeks: early February—mid-June

Academic Year
50 weeks: late July—mid-June

Calendar Year
40 weeks: early February—late November

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2009: \$14,600
Spring 2010: available 8/15/09
Academic Year 2009–10: \$26,300
Calendar Year 2010: available 8/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2009–10 include tuition, housing, full-time program leadership and support, optional on-site airport meet and greet, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, [field trips including the Northwest Excursion], host institution identity card, admission fees to host university events, comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. West Coast departure)	\$2,000
Personal Expenses	\$3,200
Meals	\$1,100
Books and Supplies*	\$320
Local Transportation	\$120
Visa Fee	\$450
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$7,190

*This includes internet fees.

Check our website for current fees.

coursework

Program Requirements

All students are required to take 12 Murdoch points per semester. A typical course load is three courses at Murdoch University. All courses are taken in the Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental, and Life Sciences, which includes the School of Sustainability, School of Environmental Science, and School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology. Students are strongly encouraged to consider the Independent Study and Internship, though they are not required. Students may take the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in addition to the typical course load of three courses.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–16 semester/22.5–24 quarter hours. Total recommended credit for the academic or calendar year is 30–31 semester/45–46.5 quarter hours.

Recommended credit varies from three to five U.S. credits per course. Students who are granted permission from their Study Abroad Advisor or Resident Director to “overload” (more than 12 Murdoch University points) may be required to pay additional registration/tuition fees to Murdoch University at the time of enrollment.

Language of Instruction

English

Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty or research fellows from Murdoch University.

Environmental Management
Environmental Policy and Law
Environmental Policy for the 21st Century
Environmental Restoration
Environmental Technology for Sustainable Development
GIS for Environmental Management and Planning
Global and Regional Sustainability
Health and the Environment
Introduction to Environmental Science
Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health
Nature-Based Tourism
Pollutants and the Human Environment
Pollution and its Control
Water and Earth Science
Water Conservation and Auditing

School of Sustainability

Advanced Sustainable Development
Cities and Innovation
Cities and Sustainability
Ecologically Sustainable Development
Economics for Sustainability
Eco-Philosophy and Practice
Introduction to Sustainable Development
Marine Conservation Policy and Coastal Sustainability
Overseas Aid and International Development
Planning Law
Policy, Technology, and Democracy
Structured Workplace Learning Placement—Information Technology
Sustainability Ethics
Sustainability for Professionals
Sustainable Development Project
Sustainable Urban and Regional Planning
Sustainable Urban Design
Tools for Participatory Decision Making
Women and Development

Independent Study

An Independent Study Contract (ISC) at Murdoch University allows students to study a topic or subject of personal interest that is not otherwise available as a formal unit. Independent study topics must relate to the theme of the program—sustainability and the environment. The independent study requires students to work closely with the CIEE Program Coordinator, Isabella Jennings, who supervises the activities. Students meet individually with the Coordinator and jointly develop the structure, content, and methods of assessment.

Sustainable Development Internship

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courses

CIEE Elective Course

CLST 3001 MURD

Seminar on Living and Learning in Perth

The Seminar on Living and Learning in Perth is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Australians are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Australia. Contact hours: 21. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

Instructor: Paul Hollick

Murdoch University

Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental, and Life Sciences

The following list is a representative sample of the areas of study available at the Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental, and Life Sciences at Murdoch University. A wide range of subjects (“units”) is available within each area of study. Classes normally meet for two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial per week for 13 weeks. Science students can expect to spend more time in classes and labs. Not all subjects/units are available every semester. Please visit the website for the Faculty of Sustainability, Environmental, and Life Sciences at Murdoch University at www.murdoch.edu.au/faculties/sels/.

School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology

Conservation Biology
Wildlife Biology

School of Environmental Science

Atmospheric Science
Australian Coastal Environments
Australian Environmental Issues
Coastal and Marine Management
Ecology

