



Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability

2024 NCP Sri Lanka 35833

Environmental Science Study Tour

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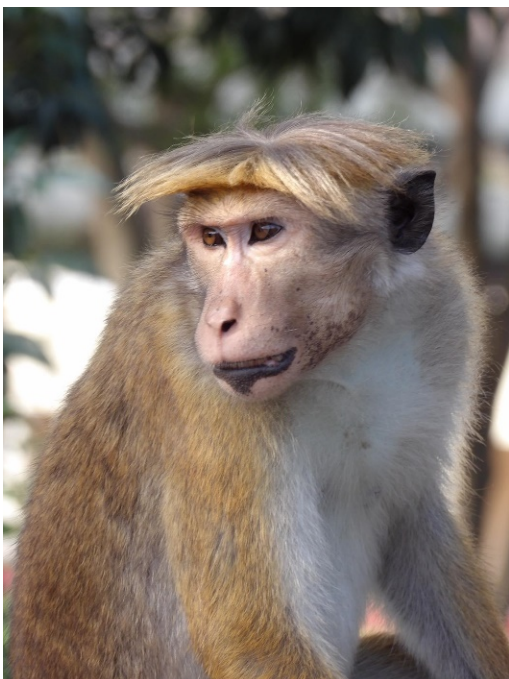
Discover the Wonders of Tropical Biodiversity in Sri Lanka - Summer 2025 for Elective SCEXC2501

What is the program?

Join us for a unique summer experience with the University of Peradeniya's Faculty of Science, nestled closer to breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage site of the Knuckles Conservation Forest, Sri Lanka. Our summer school, titled "Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation - Practical Examples from Sri Lanka," is specifically designed for undergraduate students with a thirst for knowledge and a passion for nature.

Dive deep into the heart of tropical biodiversity with our hands-on program that offers you the unique opportunity to learn about forest restoration methods directly from the experts. But it's not all work; immerse yourself in the vibrant Sri Lankan culture through engaging activities, field trips, and a chance to explore the intricate balance between social and scientific endeavours in this stunning island nation.

Our curriculum extends beyond traditional conservation techniques to uncover the untapped potential of South Asia's tropical growth areas. Discover the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda, delving into the world of traditional herbal remedies used by indigenous peoples. Be inspired by bio-inspired innovations, including structural materials, bio-fertilizers, and water purification and ancient irrigation systems, all of which highlight the critical importance of biodiversity conservation in the tropics.



What is involved?

The program offers a comprehensive exploration of tropical rainforest conservation and management techniques, emphasizing restoration and management from a South Asian perspective, and understanding of non-timber forest product harvesting, Ayurvedic herbal remedies, eco-tourism, and the cultivation and processing of cinnamon and tea. It highlights the impact of human activities on natural environments in developing countries, including human-elephant conflict. A novel feature this year is the chance to meet Sri Lanka's indigenous Vedda people, gaining insights into their traditional, nature-inspired agricultural practices. Conducted by the University of Peradeniya, this two-week immersive course occurs in various ecosystems, including the UNESCO-listed Tropical Knuckles Conservation Forest and the Kanneliya Forest, among others. Visits to local enterprises and cultural sites are integrated, offering students a hands-on understanding of Sri Lanka's cultural biodiversity. This educational adventure includes opportunities to visit a Tea Museum, Cinnamon processing center, and other significant locations, with free time for exploring key archaeological and local marketplaces.

Who is this for?

The program is open to Students enrolled in any science degree who have successfully completed at least a full first year and who have an available elective space in their course plan.

The programs will take place in January 2025 and will meet the requirements of SCEXC2501: International Science Exchange, which means that successful participation in the Sri Lanka program allows completion of an elective within your degree program.

What are the benefits?

Discover Sri Lanka's rich ecosystems and cultural traditions. Engage in conservation efforts across rainforest, Kalapuwa Resort (closer to mangroves, and marine habitats), Udawalawa National Park/ Elephant transit home. Learn about sustainable agriculture, tropical herbal medicines, community restoration, and wildlife protection, including turtles and elephants, while experiencing the local way of life on this vibrant island

Everything you need to know about the Sri Lanka Environmental Science study tour.

Who is eligible for funding?

The New Colombo Mobility Program is open to an Australian university undergraduate student who:

- a) is an Australian citizen.
- b) is not a (dual) citizen or permanent resident of Sri Lanka.
- c) is enrolled in an Australian on-shore campus and undertaking a bachelor degree or bachelor honours degree at Federation University for the duration of the mobility project.
- d) meets the age requirements (aged between 18 and 28 years inclusive)
Please note that 30% of the participants may be over 28 years of age and it is very likely that Federation University will be exempt from this restriction.
- e) not be an employee of the branch of DFAT that administers the NCP
- f) does not during the course of their bachelor degree or bachelor honours degree:
 - i. receive more than one student grant for the same mobility project.
Or
 - ii. receive more than two student grants during the course of their Bachelor Degree or Bachelor Honours Degree

Please note that in this round we will only be able to take 11 students to Sri Lanka

All students who meet the criteria or wish to participate are invited to submit an [Expression of Interest \(Eoi\)](#) by Friday the 16th of August 2024.

Where are we going?

Students will initially be staying at the University of Peradeniya Guest House in Kandy. Students will also stay at Knuckles Forest Lodge & campsite, Kanneliya as part of some of the field trips involved.

When are we going?

It is expected this two (2) week program will commence on Saturday, 11th of January 2025 to Sunday 25th of January 2025 *

What is included?

Accommodation in University of Peradeniya and all other field sites ; all breakfast and other meals during field trips, local transport in Sri Lanka , travel insurance, all field excursions and use of the University of Peradeniya learning resources & return airfare to and from Colombo (group travel to be arranged; all students to be on the same flight).

What will it cost?

It is expected that the trip will cost approximately \$5,000 with the trip being subsidised \$3,000 by the Australian Government New Colombo Plan (NCP). So anticipated cost to the student would be approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500.



Australian Government



Students selected for this study tour will automatically be eligible for the NCP grant as will not have to apply.

Note: NOT included in this cost are passport and visa arrangements, some meals especially on days off, and personal expenses

Is there additional financial support?

All participating Australian students will also be able to access OS HELP up to the value of \$8,500 (a loan placed on their HECS bill)

More Information may be found on our [OS-HELP Loan Program link](#).

* Dates are indicative and may change due to flight availability



Explore:

The richness of Sri Lankan culture, including indigenous people

Conservation of tropical biodiversity, the role of ethnobotany, and projects involving community participation.

Sustainable practices for using non-timber forest products (NTFPs), such as medicinal plants.

The effects of tea cultivation and eco-tourism on tropical forests.

Credit to your degree

The study tour is available to all students enrolled in any environmentally-focused science degree who have completed at least a full first year and who have an available elective space in their course plan credit is applied for SCEXC2501

Assistance with Costs

All participating Australian students will be able to access OS HELP (a loan placed on their HECS account) up to \$9,500. Australian students will receive AUD \$3,000 each from the Australian Government New Colombo Plan that will be used to subsidize this trip.



This opportunity counts towards the Bronze and Silver levels of your Federation Advantage Award

My Next Steps

Ready to go? Just follow these steps
and you're on your way*

step 1

Check eligibility requirements: you need to have had successfully passed at least 8 courses by the time of the excursion.
You also need to ensure that you are eligible to enroll in SCEXC2501

step 2

Check that you are financially able to undertake this trip. You will be able to get an OS-HEPL loan (if you are an Australian citizen). You should apply to receive this loan at least one month before departure.

step 3

Check essential requirements you need to complete in addition to your application.

- A valid passport
- You are willing to undertake appropriate vaccinations for entry & study in Sri Lanka
- Travel availability in January, 2025.

step 4

Complete your [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) to undertake this tour –
(all applications are submitted on-line).

Expressions of interest due: Friday the 16th of August 2024

Interview for candidates: August 2024



Questions?

If you want some help getting started, or you need to know more information, we can help.

Contact the Student Mobility Office:

Coordinator, Study Abroad and Student Mobility
Global Academic Services

Iain Johnson T +61 3 5327 6561
i.johnson@federation.edu.au or studyabroad@federation.edu.au

Or speak to the course coordinators:

Project lead: Dr Kushan Tennakoon at k.tennakoon@federation.edu.au

* Please note that submitting an expression of interest does not guarantee a placement on this trip. Places are limited and a selection process will be undertaken to select candidates according to merit

Sri Lanka - Environmental Science Study Tours

"Sri Lanka is a biodiversity hot spot, but I don't think you can really understand the meaning until you visit and experience the species richness of plants and animals it offers."

Rhianna Fox

"I have made professional connections with people in my field of study and lifelong friendships with some of the students that shared the experience with me."

Tylah Farrugia

"This has genuinely been the best two weeks of my life! I've had unforgettable experiences that I will cherish for the rest of my life, I've gained international friends and feel like I now have a second home".

Jeremy Werner

