



Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability

2024 NCP Nepal 35827

Life Science Study Tour

Professor Wendy Wright

You are invited to submit an expression of interest to attend an exciting and culturally diverse Environmental Science experience in Nepal for Elective SCEXC2501

What is the program?

Join us on a unique three-week course with Federation University Australia, nestled in Nepal's biodiverse Terai region, near Chitwan National Park. Hosted at the Biodiversity Conservation Centre, which is operated by Nepal's National Trust for Nature Conservation, this program immerses students in the heart of Nepalese culture and conservation efforts. Dive into the complexities of rural society and engage in community-based programs aimed at safeguarding iconic species such as One-horned Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, and Asian Elephant. Participants will acquire hands-on skills in wildlife and habitat monitoring and delve into Nepal's approach to community-based conservation. Explore the dynamic between international conservation obligations and their impacts on local communities, gaining insights into the challenges and successes of managing these effects. This experience is not just an educational journey, but a gateway to understanding and contributing to real-world conservation solutions in one of the world's most ecologically rich areas.



What is involved?

The course provides an in-depth exploration of Nepal's community-driven conservation efforts, highlighting the distinct approach from Western government-led initiatives. A key component is the study of Nepal's Community Forestry system, encompassing its origins and its role in conservation efforts. With over 17,000 Community Forestry User Groups, this system is integral to much of Nepal's rural fabric. The course will outline the collaborative roles played by the government, communities, and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in fostering sustainable livelihoods and reducing dependency on forest resources. This, in turn, supports conservation objectives and mitigates human-wildlife conflicts by diminishing the need for resource gathering within National Parks.

Nepal's renowned Community Forestry programs serve as a prime example of participatory forest management, which is vital to the socio-economic landscape of rural Nepal. Through the course, students will gain insights into the formation of community forests, the variety of management approaches, and the principles and practices of wildlife conservation that involve community participation.

Who is this for?

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

What are the benefits?

Understand and experience Nepalese culture and history with an emphasis on rural Nepal, natural resource management and the livelihood implications of natural resource management.

Understand the development of community forestry in Nepal, its political, social and economic dimensions, and its impact on Nepali rural society.

Understand and experience the current (participatory) approaches to wildlife conservation in Nepal.

Everything you need to know about the Nepal Environmental Science study tour

Who is eligible for funding?

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

- a) is an Australian citizen.
- b) is not a (dual) citizen or permanent resident of Nepal.
- 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 (70% of participants 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. Students of all ages are welcome to apply.
- 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, thanks to a revision from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), ALL successful Australian applicants will receive NCP funding .

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?

Australian students will stay at the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) field station in Sauhara, adjacent to Chitwan National Park and within Nepal's Terai (lowland) area. This accommodation would be twin share.

When are we going?

It is expected this three (3) week program will commence on Saturday, 11th of January 2025 to Sunday 2nd of February 2025 *

What is included?

Accommodation in Kathmandu and Chitwan; most meals, local transport in Nepal & return airfare to and from Kathmandu (group travel to be arranged; all students to be on the same flight), travel insurance, all field excursions and use of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) field station.

What will it cost?

It is expected that the trip will cost approximately \$5,000 with students being subsidised \$3,500 by the Australian Government New Colombo Plan (NCP). So the approximate cost per student is estimated at between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per student.



Note: NOT included in this cost are passport and visa arrangements, some meals 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



Key Experiences

Delve into the rich tapestry of Nepalese culture and the dynamics of rural communities, with a focus on community-driven wildlife conservation efforts in Nepal.

Participate in insightful lectures delivered by eminent experts in the field of conservation.

Explore diverse ecosystems, including jungles and mountains.

Gain firsthand understanding of contemporary, participatory methods utilized in wildlife

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 \$3,500 each from the Australian Government New Colombo Plan that will be used to subsidize this trip.



This opportunity counts towards your



Federation
Advantage
Award

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. Unfortunately this year not all places are supported by the New Colombo Plan. 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 Nepal
- 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: Professor Wendy Wright - wendy.wright@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

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"The Nepal Study Tour had a profound impact on my personal development. My worldview has expanded, and I feel I have a deeper understanding of the needs and priorities of a developing nation. As an online student, being able to build a network of fellow conservationists has been a huge positive. I have also gained person-to-person relationships with the staff and NTNC who have offered to supervise and support any future research I might undertake in Nepal. These new outlooks and connections give me the courage to move forward into post-graduate studies and or work."

Harriet Robertson, Nepal Study Tour (2022)

