

School of Creative Arts
\$3,000 Student Grants for 3-week Study Trip to Cambodia
June to July 2015

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The School of Creative Arts (SoCA) at the University of Newcastle has secured funding from the Australian Government for the project “***Developing social awareness and engagement through the creative arts***”. The funding is part of the government’s New Colombo Plan to increase student mobility and provide overseas experience. This project is an outstanding opportunity to become Asia-literate and gain a first-hand experience of a developing country.

SoCA is currently calling for expressions of interest.

When: 20 June to 11 July 2015 (anticipated dates only)

Who: Six undergraduate full-time second- or third-year or Honours students from the School of Creative Arts, between ages 18 and 28.

What: Three-week volunteer placement with a non-government organisation (NGO) in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. You will participate in creative projects, research activities, and/or community-based projects in collaboration with NGOs “Music Arts School”, “Empowering Youth Cambodia”, and/or “Cambodian Living Arts”.

Why: This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! With cultural and arts NGOs as hosts, you will gain real-world experience of the arts and culture in a developing country, and how they may be used to improve the lives of people.

Costs

The total expected cost of the trip is around \$3500-4000. If your application is successful, you will be awarded a New Colombo Plan Student Mobility Project grant of \$3000 towards flights, transfers, domestic travel, insurance, visas, pre-departure healthcare (including vaccinations), basic living expenses, and a language subsidy to undertake basic Khmer language lessons before you go (via a short online program) and during your stay. If you need, SoCA / UoN will help you explore funding sources to cover the remaining costs of the trip, for example OS-HELP. Only those students who are successful in their application for a grant will be permitted to join the project.

What you will do

Prior to departure you will attend information sessions that discuss expectations, assessment, and support. In Cambodia, you will be offered a range of activities for your time abroad. You may engage with community-based and/or teaching-and-learning initiatives, assist with cultural / creative events, collaborate with Cambodian students on creative performance projects, and/or develop and carry out a small research or applied project.

About Cambodia

Cambodia is a developing country. Nearly half the population live in poverty, and you will need to be ready to see evidence of this throughout your travels. The Australian Government recommends



normal safety precautions for travel, though vigilance is necessary. You should not be out alone (or even with others in certain areas) after dark. Only bottled water is drinkable, and you will need vaccinations before you go.

Phnom Penh is a chaotic, vibrant city with most amenities of other major Asian capitals, including Western-style cafes and wifi. There is no public transport system in Phnom Penh, and you will travel locally by tuk-tuk. Sensitivity to the tragic recent history of Cambodia (the Pol Pot / Khmer Rouge genocide) is essential for all travellers to Cambodia, and this will be discussed with you before your trip.

Academic credit

You will receive academic credit for participating in this project. Second and third year students will enrol in AART3500 Directed Study, available as a 'directed course' for Fine Art and Music students, and an elective for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) students. Honours students should consult the Honours convenor in charge of their discipline for enrollment advice. The project, including tailored reflective activities and assessment items, will comprise the full requirements for these courses.

Selection

Applicants will be selected on a competitive basis. Academic achievement will be one factor. Equally important will be evidence of your community involvement, social awareness and responsibility, and personal maturity. A gender balance will also be actively sought.

How to apply

Please prepare a short statement (no more than 1 A4 page total in 11 point font) briefly addressing the following questions.

- Name, email address/es, contact phone number
- Why do you want to participate in this project? What do you hope to gain?
- Please provide an example of how you have demonstrated community engagement and/or have an awareness of social issues
- Please provide an example of how you are able to work with others
- Please comment on your personal attributes – your personality, attitude, outlook. How would you describe yourself?
- What would be your main concern/s about participating in this project?
- List any overseas travel you have had (country, purpose, length of stay)

Please also attach a summary of your academic university results to date.

Email your application as a PDF file to Catherine Grant (address below).

Deadline: 5pm MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2014

Notification

Applicants may be short-listed and invited for a brief interview before final selection. The outcome will be announced early 2015.

More questions?

Please contact Dr Catherine Grant, Research Fellow, School of Creative Arts.

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