

Matariki Indigenous Student Mobility Program (MISMP) 2017

The School of Indigenous Studies
The University of Western Australia
2nd - 12th July 2017

Program Background

Building on their commitment to fostering scholarship on, and deepening understanding of, Indigenous peoples, Dartmouth College, the University of Otago and the University of Western Australia have collectively developed an Indigenous Student Mobility Programme for students across the Matariki Network of Universities. All three institutions have experience in Indigenous education, have Indigenous student populations and are able to offer participants a shared immersion experience through links with respective university scholars, and local Indigenous communities. The concept for the programme is that a small group of students from each participating institution participates in a 10 day set of academic experiences run at each of the organising institutions in successive years. Participants gain exposure to issues of great significance to local host and partner university Indigenous communities, and an understanding of how those issues may be addressed in their respective home countries. The first edition of the programme was held at Otago in 2016, with further programmes scheduled to take place at UWA in 2017 and Dartmouth in 2018.



2016 Matariki student delegates pose for a group photo at the gateway of a Maori Marae in Dunedin, New Zealand

2017 UWA Program Description:

This Matariki Indigenous Student Mobility Program (MISMP) provides students with the opportunity to study, experience and relate to a range of Indigenous knowledge topics that become available through UWA's School of Indigenous Studies' global Indigenous engagement programs. Studying in different locations alongside different Indigenous communities and colleagues will provide first-hand opportunities to investigate issues of local, national and global Indigenous rights, sustainable community development, environmental custodianship, arts & design, and cultural well being primarily from an Indigenous perspective.

In July 2017, UWA's School of Indigenous Studies (SIS) will run the Matariki Program. The Program has now been extended to include students and staff from Dartmouth University (USA); Queens University (Canada); Durham University (UK); and Otago University (New Zealand), all of whom will join SIS on a 10 day Indigenous studies focused education program in and around Perth.

For UWA students, this global educational program is also taken for academic credit. Students undertake the INDG1800/2800/3800 Indigenous Ways of Knowing teaching unit, focusing on the following key learning outcomes.

Students are able to:

- (1) responsibly immerse themselves in the day-to-day learning experiences and cultural lifestyles of host Indigenous communities and their settings;
- (2) actively demonstrate ethical ways of engaging 'in-country' with different Indigenous peoples and their knowledges, values and belief systems;
- (3) develop skills to critically analyse representations of cultural heritage, making links to the knowledge of historical and contemporary contexts in a set of creative multi-media exercises and assessment items;
- (4) demonstrate quality communication, citizenship and life-learning skills in both academic and community-based settings; and
- (5) identify further initiatives for Indigenous study in their respective university learning programs, community service activities, or future professional practices.