



i. International Environmental Policy 2010 Global Summer Program Report

Australian National University	
Brief description	<p>International environmental policy has grown dramatically over the last three decades, and now directly and indirectly affects the behaviour and decisions of governments, corporations, NGOs, local communities and individuals.</p> <p>The emphasis of this course is on understanding the real-world dynamics of policy formation and debate. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing insights from areas including ecology, law, economics, international relations and politics. Most the course takes place on the ANU campus (winner of the Impact Award from the International Sustainable Campus Network, ISCN); four-five days towards the end of the course will be spent at the ANU Kioloa Coastal Campus.</p>
Course duration:	29 June – 16 July (18 days)
Tuition fees:	Exempted for incoming students ONLY
Accommodation:	USD \$950 [AUD \$1093 (inclusive of meals)]
Field trip:	USD \$434 (AUD \$500)
Course facilitator(s):	Dr Rosie COONEY, Mr Ian FRY

2. Participant and teaching staff data

	University	Number of Students	Teaching Staff
IARU Partner Universities	Australian National University	6	2
	ETH Zurich	2	
	National University of Singapore	3	
	Peking University		
	University of California, Berkeley	1	
	University of Cambridge		
	University of Copenhagen		
	University of Oxford	2	
	The University of Tokyo	1	
	Yale University		
	Total IARU partner involvement	15	2
Non-IARU Partner Universities			
	TOTAL Non-IARU partner involvement		
TOTAL	15	2	

3. Successful aspects of the course

Please outline the successful aspects of the GSP course, where possible, referring to feedback gained from students and/or staff involved in the course. Feel free to incorporate photos into this section of the report. (Est. 500 words)

Preliminary feedback on the ANU GSP course International Environmental Policy is that the course was a great success.

All students were highly impressed with the course content and presentation by the course convenors. Feedback from the convenors is that all students were informed and enthusiastic, participating fully in the program.

Positive responses from the students included:

- Overall the accommodation provided was very good. Staying at Bruce Hall, one of ANU's more established residential colleges, provided an opportunity for the international students to meet and interact with a range of ANU students, including the ANU students participating in the GSP with them. ANU provided meal vouchers to those students so that they too could share in the collegiate experience of the College.
- As last year, the field trip to Kioloa was a highlight of the course for all students. Based at the coastal research station of ANU, this visit provides students with an opportunity to experience Australian flora and fauna first hand.
- The half day tour of Canberra was well received and is recommended by students to be offered each year. The Fenner School arranged for an afternoon bus tour to Tidbinbilla which was enjoyed by all students.
- Rosie and Ian are well regarded lecturers who displayed great knowledge and energy. The two lecturers worked very well together providing two perspectives – one more theoretical while the other was grounded in practical, real life experiences; Ian had previously worked as National Park Ranger.
- Many of the international students were re-inspired and re-energised by the course in their choice of studies at their home universities.
- All students also enjoyed the welcome dinner and farewell receptions held for them.
- Everyone loved the GSP T-shirts!



4. Challenges and concerns for the future

Please outline aspects of the course and/or the wider GSP that presented difficulties for your University. (Est. 500 words)

In terms of administration of the course by the ANU, difficulties encountered included:

- Dealing with the large number of applications in a short period of time. On one hand proves success of program but does involve very high administrative load in very short timeframe to meet external deadlines.
- As ANU students must be able to accommodate credit for the course within their study program, it is resource intensive establishing the ranked students have “space” in their degrees for the course. Approval must be sought from their respective Colleges before nominating students to host universities. ANU is reviewing this process for 2011.
- Some outgoing students experienced problems at their host universities with regards to processes related to accommodation, enrollment and other administrative issues. The payment of fees (ANU meets the tuition of their outgoing students) proved to be the most problematic issue. From a pastoral care point of view it was concerning to learn that some outgoing students experienced problems at their host universities with regards to processes related to accommodation, enrollment and other administrative issues. The students in one instance were advised that they would be expelled from the course and accommodation. If these circumstances arose again it is our preference – given ANU is providing the funding for tuition – the GSP Coordinator be the first point of contact not the students.
- Some course outlines did not include adequate information concerning target audience or prerequisites. This makes it difficult to short-list candidates and in one case this meant a nominated student was rejected by the host university for not having the necessary academic background. This was very disappointing for both the student and ANU, as this pre-requisite was not articulated in the course profiles.
- ANU’s GSP Coordinator should be copied into all email correspondence with our students. This is imperative in the early stages just after students’ nominations have been accepted. ANU aims to provide as much assistance as possible to their outgoing students. This proved difficult as we were unaware of requests for additional information from host universities. A possible solution would be partners advise each other all the information required of students at the offer stage. This information should also include any subsidies or grants being offered, and where such grants are available that they are offered through the home university and not directly to the students.

- At the ANU the GSP coordinator is responsible for the administration for the course, including arranging accommodation and enrolment. This means that the incoming students have only the one point of contact for all administrative arrangements. Would it be possible for all GSP Coordinators to have a centralised role in coordinating the different areas of their university (eg housing, enrolment etc) so the incoming student is liaising with as few people as possible.
- Cost of T-shirts quite high for such limited numbers. Centralised printing may reduce cost? Deleting the reference to a specific year may mean more shirts can be printed at one time to reduce unit cost.

With regards to the course itself, from the student's perspectives the following comments were made:

- There was a mixed response on guest lecturers – some guests were too dry in their presentation however the students appreciated the contrast between the corporate guests and the speakers from not-for-profit organisations.
- Those students who arrived early for the course would have liked an orientation tour of the local area on their arrival.
- International students were unable to access the online course resources (Wattle) before the first day of the course. This is linked to their enrolment on the ANU Student system which cannot take place until they arrive at the ANU. ANU will look into whether there is a way to overcome this restriction for next year's course.
- Publicity on the GSP at home universities was reported not to be widespread or easily accessible. Several incoming students found information almost by accident rather than part of an informed process.
- The extremely competitive nature of the GSP application process at the ANU was raised as a concern for ANU students. The possibility of extending the number of courses, or spreading the subsidies paid by ANU to ANU outgoing students so that more students could participate, was also suggested.