



## ACICIS secures over \$600,000 in New Colombo Plan Funding

*New Colombo Plan creates links with Indonesia in Agriculture and Resource Management.*

**PERTH – December 8, 2014.** Australian students will study agriculture, food science and resource management in Indonesia thanks to a \$608,900 grant to the Australian Consortium for 'In-Country' Indonesian Studies (ACICIS) under the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan.

Currently in its second round of funding, the New Colombo Plan will provide \$8 million in mobility grants for Australian undergraduate students in 38 locations across the Indo Pacific region during 2015-2016.

In the 2015 round, over 100 mobility grants, as well as an additional 20 internship grants, will be given to undergraduate students from 12 of the consortium's 23 member universities participating in existing ACICIS programs in Business, International Relations, and Development Studies. These mobility grants will also support the development of a new semester program in 2016 in Agriculture, Food Science and Resource Management.

Students from Agricultural Sciences and Rural and Urban Planning disciplines will gain cross-cultural understanding of resource management issues in the region. They will study at a partner university in Indonesia, followed by a vocational internship to gain hands-on experience alongside leading industry experts.

ACICIS' Resident Director in Indonesia, Ms Elena Williams is thrilled with ACICIS' latest NCP allocation.

"This will be the first time we have opened our doors to Agricultural Science students and I am certain that in the long-term this will have a far-reaching impact on the Australia-Indonesia relationship," she says.

"There is great potential to develop stronger partnerships in agriculture and food production between our countries, and one of the first steps in achieving this is for students to actually study Indonesian eco-systems, meet with peak bodies, visit farms, rice paddies and waste management sites, to really get a sense of the many challenges—and opportunities—in Indonesian industry and agriculture today."

According to ACICIS Consortium Director, Professor David Hill of Murdoch University, "With food security becoming an increasingly important global issue, developing these bilateral links will benefit both countries, and better equip Australian graduates with a global perspective."

ACICIS has already provided New Colombo Plan mobility grants to more than 50 students from its member universities to study in Indonesia. With the largest ever cohort of students studying with ACICIS in Semester 1, 2015, it is anticipated that New Colombo Plan funding will continue to stimulate interest in studying in Indonesia.

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