



Europe & Australia Education Cooperation - more than meets the eye!



While not exactly comparable to Optimus Prime, his personal motto is one to which the EU can readily aspire - "Freedom is the right of all sentient beings". Certainly "freedom" is the catch phrase for the European Union.

Free movement of goods, persons, services and capital are the four fundamental pillars of the internal market. To this has now been added a fifth freedom - the freedom of knowledge.

Freedom of knowledge encompasses not just the knowledge itself but the freedom to move around to gain and share that knowledge. It is not enough to know something, you have to be able to build on that knowledge to expand it so that it becomes a journey of discovery itself.

The EU and Australia have been engaged at a political level since 1962 when Sir Edwin McCarthy became the first Australian Ambassador to the European Communities. Since then the relationship has, like Topsy in Uncle Tom's Cabin, "just growed". The latest development is a Partnership Framework which was adopted in October 2008 and which sets the scene for greater collaboration at all levels, including Education.

European education has been influencing Australia ever since 1788 when British settlement saw a steady stream of Europeans coming to Australia to start new lives. Since then, bringing things right up to date, we inaugurated a new EU-Australia high level dialogue on

higher education in March 2009. However, there are still far more Europeans who come to Australia to study and undertake research than the other way around. It was partly to address this imbalance, and to raise the awareness of students and institutions of the advantages of undertaking part of their studies overseas, that the EC and Australia decided to start a series of bilateral study projects.

These projects offer students at participating universities and Vocational Education Training (VET) institutions the chance to undertake a period of study overseas in either Europe or Australia. These projects aim to develop joint credit transfer arrangements, support academic cooperation and encourage student mobility.

Projects usually run for three years.

The main features of the cooperation projects are:

- A consortium of at least three EU and two Australian partners;
- Structured exchanges of students and staff;
- Innovative curriculum development;
- Recognition of study abroad (minimum of one semester);
- Language and cultural training.

The first project started in 2003 and resulted in approximately 20 applications and the successful project, led in Australia by the University of Western Sydney, focused on Agriculture, Food Systems and the Environment. Since then, the EU and Australia have supported twelve projects over five rounds. They have covered a wide range of topics including: agriculture and the environment; cultural and natural heritage management; governance and security; journalism; and water management.



Projects are funded at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

A sixth round of projects has just been approved including universities and VET institutions and projects are expected to commence in late 2009/2010.

Together, these projects involve 33 Australian Institutions including several VET providers across all States and Territories and 55 European educational institutions from 19 different European Countries. By 2011, more than 900 students will have undertaken part of their studies abroad, and over 70 scholars will have taught abroad at partner institutions in Australia or the EU.

More information on these projects can be found at www.deewr.gov.au or www.delaus.ec.europa.eu



Australian students and academics have been highly successful in the EC's Erasmus Mundus Program. Erasmus Mundus was started in 2004 and it was set up to promote the excellence of European education to the world and to encourage students to come to the smaller EU member states and not just to look at "big" ones. Erasmus Mundus works in two main ways. Firstly, it funds joint EU Masters Programs that are run by a consortium of European Institutions, three of which must be in three different Member or Associated States. Secondly, the Program provides scholarships to students and academics from outside Europe to study and teach these Masters programs.

The program is open to just about every country in the world and Australia has been very successful in gaining scholarships and in becoming partners with the European Consortia to be part of the Masters Program.

Since Erasmus Mundus started, over 7,800 students and more than 1,600 scholars have been selected to study or research/teach under an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course scholarship, including 77 Australian Students, 89 Australian Academics and 29 New Zealand students and 8 New Zealand academics. Australian Institutions are involved in 16 European Masters Courses and two Joint Doctorships. We are now on the second phase of Erasmus Mundus which will run until 2013.

And there's more, we have just announced a new call for proposals to foster structured cooperation between European and Australian/New Zealand Universities through the promotion of mobility at PhD and Post graduate level, including staff in all education areas. More information on all Erasmus Mundus programs at <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/> and click on link for Erasmus Mundus.

There are other opportunities for study and research in Europe including the **Jean Monnet Fellowships**. Launched in 1990, the programme which promotes the study of European Integration is now present in 60 countries throughout the world and around 700 universities offer Jean Monnet courses as part of their curricula.

Between 1990 and 2007, the Jean Monnet Action has helped to set up 2,900 projects in the field of European integration studies, including 124 Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence, 761 Chairs and 1,982 permanent courses and European modules.



This year, Professor Pascaline Winand from the Monash Europe and European Union Centre (MEEUC) at Monash University in Melbourne won €35,145 to set up a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and International Relations.

This is only the third Jean Monnet chair in Australasia; with the other two being awarded earlier to Professor Philomena Murray at Melbourne University and Professor Martin Holland at the National Centre for Research in Europe at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The University of Canterbury won close to €100,000 for a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence which will formalise links between four centres in the Region (Australia (Monash University), New Zealand (NCRE), China (Fudan University) and Japan (Keio University) and a Jean Monnet Module which will provide a new course on EU-Asia Pacific studies.



Professor Pascaline Winand, Monash Europe and European Union Centre, Monash University



Professor Martin Holland, National Centre for Research in Europe, University of Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand

You can find more information from

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/jean_monnet/jean_monnet_en.php



Professor Philomena Murray, University of Melbourne

Study in Europe: information for Australian students



The Delegation of the European Union to Australia has a website dedicated to information for Australian students wishing to study in Europe.

The site includes information about studying in each of the Member States, and testimonials from students who have returned from Europe. Visit the site: www.study-in-europe.org.au



The EU-Australia relationship in education is enhanced in other ways. There are now three **EU Centres of Excellence in Australia**: the National Europe Centre (NEC) at the Australian National University in Canberra; The RMIT EU Centre at RMIT in Melbourne, and the Monash Europe and EU Centre (MEEUC) which is based at Monash University in Melbourne.

These institutions are co-funded by the European Commission and their home institutions and their role is to develop EU focussed university activities, provide information about the EU to various sectors of society, undertake research work and studies on the EU and promote outreach activities such as cultural events, conferences, workshops, lectures, summer schools etc. More information on these Centres can be found at: www.delaus.ec.europa.eu

Last year, the EC and Australia signed a **Declaration of Intent** to increase cooperation in the field of education. In March this year we held the first of several “policy dialogues” which will focus on matters of mutual interest such as “University reform”; “Early Childhood Education” and “Qualifications Frameworks”. These “dialogues” are not intended to be ivory tower events but involve the experts and practitioners (including students) and will have some positive results in terms of more collaboration at the institutional level.



The EU is serious about education and even more serious about making sure everyone knows about it! There are more than four thousand higher education institutions in Europe, from top-level research establishments to small, teaching-focused colleges. Europe itself is no less diverse, extending from the Arctic Circle to the coast of Africa, where tiny principalities sit side-by-side with many of the world’s leading economies. So how do you know where to go and what to choose? Help is at hand though, the European Union’s website **Study in Europe** has up to date information on 32 European countries, their universities and what it takes to study..... and live in them.

More information on:
www.study-in-europe.org



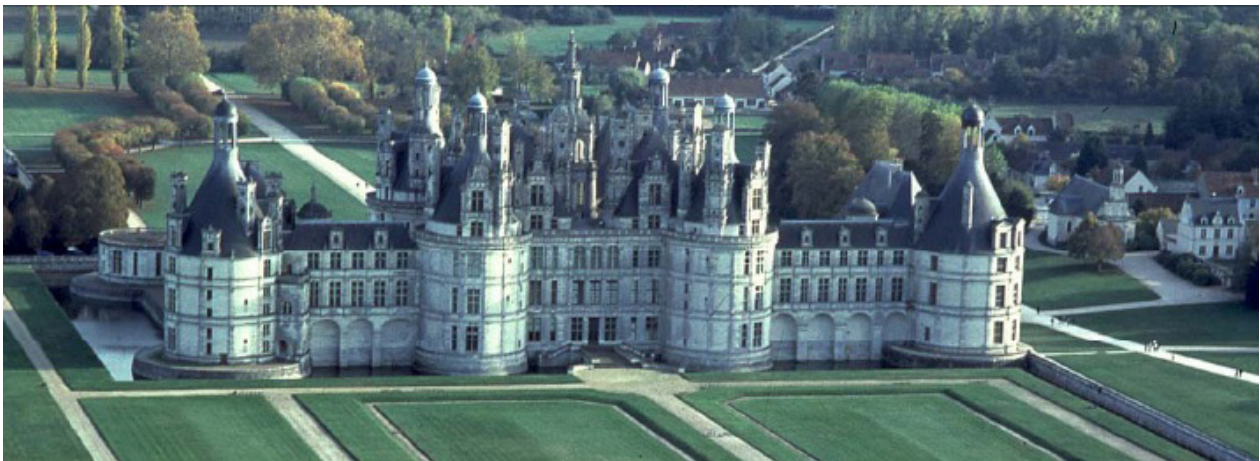


Working together in Paris and Kakadu

The EU and Australia were pleased to fund the third joint cooperation pilot project, which saw EU and Australian Masters students working together in Paris and Kakadu National Park. *Sharing Our Heritages: Master Classes in Cultural and Natural Heritage Management* was led by Australia's University of Western Sydney and Germany's Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus.

This successful project, which ran from 2005 to 2008, aimed to exchange 80 students between the four consortium members in both Australia and the EU. The core of the program was a series of Master Classes in Heritage Management: two at the Kakadu National Park and World Heritage Site in the Northern Territory, and three in Paris at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Ecole de Chaillot, with some field components elsewhere in France and Belgium.

All exchange students completed both a Paris and Kakadu Master Class with a full semester of exchange. The academic program was built on a framework of study of diverse heritages from a range of academic disciplines. The success of this program helped mark the end of the pilot phase of joint cooperation projects between the EU and Australia, leading to larger rounds with more projects funded.





Stories from Erasmus Mundus participants

Dr Catriona Bonfiglioli



Catriona is a lecturer in Media Studies in the Communication program at The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), has been a professional journalist since 1985 and a medical journalist since 1993.

Catriona says she is delighted to be contributing to the Public Spheres Module at the Institut für Journalistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft, University of Hamburg. She will present on aspects of journalism and the public sphere including: how diverse communities are reported in the Asia Pacific region, how Australian Aboriginal communities are represented in the media, how health issues are covered in Australia (particularly obesity, immunisation, and smoking) and how humanitarian issues are reported.

She sees this as an important opportunity to share approaches to journalism studies, to see how media studies are taught in Europe and to have a chance to discuss research approaches and findings with other academics. Catriona says *“I am particularly interested in how health is covered in the news media in Europe, how the issue of health journalism is discussed in journalism education and how the global changes in journalism funding and practice may be influencing journalism about health issues.”*

Yan Zhen Chua

Having completed a Bachelors degree in Aerospace Engineering from Monash University, Yan will pursue his passion in astronautics through the European Masters in Aeronautics and Space Technology. The program provides him the opportunity to study at two leading aerospace institutions, the Technische Universität München, Germany and Cranfield University, U.K.

Yan is excited to not only further his academic pursuits but to also broaden his global perspective through embracing a new culture and environment. Having been an exchange student to the United States during his undergraduate degree, he understands the tremendous benefit and extra dimension international experience brings to an education.

Yan says *“Studying alongside like-minded individuals from countries around the globe with a shared passion*



will be a tremendous experience at both the professional and personal levels. The opportunity for a semester long placement with a plethora of European aerospace organization during the program is also invaluable practical experience not found elsewhere in the world.”

Upon completion of the Masters program, Yan aspires to continue with further studies at the PhD level and pursue a career with the European Space Agency in the field of rocket propulsion development. His ultimate vision is to accomplish a successful landing of man on Mars.



Kurt Sorensen



When I got back to Australia people excitedly asked me ‘Kurt! How was Europe?’ I’d always fire back ‘*awesome!*’ Prior to the trip, my knowledge of Europe was very limited. Most of what I knew about

Austria was from watching ‘*The Sound of Music*’ as a child. It certainly lived up to the scenic beauty of the film. Snowboarding the Austrian Alps, bicycle riding between castles in Lower Austria, milking dairy cows at a friend’s farmhouse, trekking in the scenic mountains and swimming beneath a waterfall are some of my fondest memories.

This may sound like a holiday, but it was indeed a university exchange program! Please don’t be mistaken and think that it was all fun and games. The studies were very challenging, yet rewarding.

Some units were very theory based, with old Austrian professors talking and writing on blackboards for hours on end. In contrast some units were extremely practical, with lab work or field trips. In one unit we were fortunate enough to spend a week in the mountains learning about forestry. We participated in some research and learnt methods of calculating the carbon storage capacity of differing forest stands.

Living and studying in Europe was an incredible life experience for me. It was like I got to live in someone else’s shoes for a semester. My advice to anyone considering studying overseas would be: *What are you waiting for? This is your opportunity to experience something extraordinary... just do it!* Read Kurt’s full story at <http://www.delais.ec.europa.eu/studyineurope/KurtsStory.htm>

Dr Tony Maniaty

Currently Senior Lecturer in International Journalism at the University of Technology Sydney, Tony has spent most of his working life as a broadcast journalist. His career highlights include



European Correspondent for SBS and Executive Producer of the ABC’s *The 7.30 Report*. Tony’s published works include two novels and a memoir, and most recently ‘*Shooting Balibo*’, an account of his experiences in East Timor as a young television journalist in the troubles of 1975.

Under the Erasmus Mundus program, Tony will be running the Erasmus Mundus Master course “*Reporting Global Change*” in conjunction with Professor Hans-Henrik Holm, Professor of World Politics at the Danish School of Journalism in Aarhus. Having developed strong links between DSJ and UTS over several years, the current experience will strengthen those bonds between two leading journalism schools.

Tony says “*One way I hope this will happen is by focusing on the impact of globalisation in our understanding of global change. Events such as terrorism, problems such as humanitarian disasters and wars impact national agendas in such a way that global agendas are created. The Erasmus Mundus course we teach looks at various agendas in this sphere and demonstrates the complexities of the interplay between media reporting and global change.*”



Michael Klador



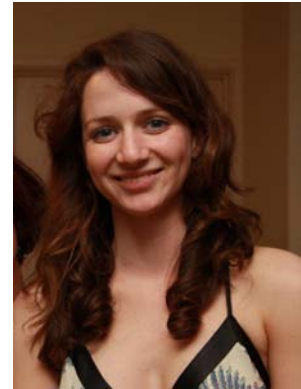
After graduating from the Australian National University with a BA in 2007, 25 year old Michael is currently a research assistant with the Parliamentary Library in Canberra, and will be undertaking the Masters of Applied Ethics program. He will be studying at the

Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim and the Centre of Applied Ethics at Linkoping University in Sweden.

Michael is excited by the program and being offered the opportunity to study in Europe and says: *“The program I will be undertaking allows me to bring together my background in philosophy and my professional experience in dealing with current social policy issues. I am particularly excited by the chance to meet students from around the world who share the same interest in ethics and to examine ethical issues within an international context. I am hoping that the experience of studying at these two Scandinavian institutions will broaden my thinking and allow me to examine some key ethical problems from a global perspective.”*

Vanessa Wolz

Vanessa is 22 years old and currently studying a Masters of Speech Pathology at Curtin University in Perth, having completed her Bachelor of Arts with Honours at the University of Western Australia in July 2008. As part of the Erasmus Mundus program, she will be



undertaking a Masters of Clinical Linguistics at three European institutions; Milano-Bicocca University (Italy), the University of Groningen (the Netherlands) and Potsdam University (Germany).

“I applied for the Erasmus Mundus course as well as the Speech Pathology Masters at Curtin University due to my strong interest in cognitive neuroscience and human communication, as I wanted to gain qualifications in a more applicable or focussed stream of linguistics. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to live in three different countries and experience these cultures first-hand. I will be able to improve my knowledge whilst surrounded by a variety of languages and others dedicated to studying communication science.”



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