

Vision

To provide high quality experience based education so that students develop sound academic knowledge and interpersonal skills through active participation in team orientated research activities.



Sweating the sheets

Goals

- Provide students with an understanding of the physical, chemical and ecological aspects of the Great Barrier Reef and the general principals that govern all marine ecosystems.
- Establish the concept that marine environments are subject to many environmental impacts including both natural and anthropogenic.
- Introduce students to the principals of scientific research by supervising them in the development and execution of their own research project.
- Engender an appreciation of the marine environment and develop a student's ability to be an effective member of a research team.



Lectures on board

Fees

All Inclusive Fee is A\$5,000 (This is approx US\$3,500). College at Sea has an all inclusive course fee including accommodation, food and tuition (total of 21 night's accommodation). The course fee also includes transfers to and from Brisbane International Airport, but it does not include accommodation, food or travel on free days when students can make their own arrangements (we provide several optional itinerary's that cover accommodation and activities for free days and are happy to assist with ideas).

Scholarships

Scholarships based on academic merit and financial need are available thanks to our many sponsors and donors (WBM Oceanics, NIWA Australia, private donors). As the selection criteria for scholarships vary, contact the Director, Dr. James Udy for further information on applying for scholarships. j.udy@collegetatsea.com



Sponsors Scholarship

A total of 10 scholarships have been provided by corporate sponsors. The monetary value of these scholarships range from A\$5,000 to A\$1,000, with 4 of the scholarships being A\$2,000. To receive a scholarship of \$3,000 or more, a student needs to demonstrate both high academic achievement as well as financial need. While scholarships of \$2,000 or \$1,000 will be awarded on the student's academic ability and do not require the student to answer any questions relating to financial need.

Dates

1st July to 29th July, 2005

Contacts

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College at Sea Australia



Course description

College at Sea focuses on learning through involvement in research activities. It is a four week course in marine science that combines the adventure of sailing through the Coral Sea with hands-on research experience. It was offered for the first time in 2002 and was an outstanding success with students completing research topics in coral bleaching, phytoplankton and zooplankton dynamics as well as remote sensing.

The course consists of 3 components:

Orientation

During the first five days the students will be based at Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort, where they will receive the orientation lectures covering aspects relating to the ecological functioning of coral reefs, including topics relating to tropical marine ecosystems, oceanography, nutrient dynamics and remote sensing. Students will also complete their proposal for the independent research topic, which they will undertake while at sea to further enhance their understanding of the marine environment.



Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort



Nightly dolphin feedings

Field Component

The focus of this section of the course will be for students to learn about the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef through their involvement in group activities and independent research project. Whilst at sea many aspects of ecosystem health will be sampled (including: water, sediment, plankton and benthic microalgae) along transects that extend from the mainland to the outer reef. Students will also explore the coral and seagrass communities of the Whitsunday Islands and the outer reefs using "Reef Check" surveys to determine the condition of reefs and other benthic habitats in different regions. This data will be used to investigate the extent to which nutrients from coastal rivers influence the marine ecosystems of the central Great Barrier Reef.



Cruise track



Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef

Analysis and Synthesis

Following an exciting and memorable 10 days exploring various ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef, students will return to the Moreton Bay Research Station, on North Stradbroke Island to analyse samples, undertake statistical analysis and synthesis the results from their independent research topic into a scientific paper and oral presentation. The scientific paper and oral presentation while providing a completion of the project for each student will also be used as the primary assessment items for the course and allow the students to share their new knowledge with their fellow students.



Moreton Bay Research Station

Credit

College at Sea has both a course work and independent study component and is appropriate for all levels of university students (freshman to seniors). A mentoring system where the junior students are paired with a more senior student and a tutor allow students to assist each other and achieve a high standard of academic work for their experience.

The course includes 4 weeks of contact and is equivalent to ½ a semester of credit at most universities. However, the amount of credit that is transferable back to a student's home institution will vary depending on enrollment guidelines for individual universities and the students major.

All students participate in lectures that cover topics relating to oceanography, tropical marine ecology and remote sensing. In addition students undertake independent research projects that they design with the help of academic staff. Participation in field work as well as oral and written reports are used in the assessment process.