

# Review of operations

## *Internationalisation*



**Goal: to engage in international activities, including internationalisation of the curriculum, to heighten academic, economic and cultural benefits for the region**

*Increase the number of domestic students studying part of their program overseas, including through the Global Opportunities Program*

### **GO-ing overseas**

The University's Global Opportunities (GO) Program, launched in 2004, gives graduates a competitive edge in the employment market by enabling domestic students to study overseas for academic credit. Advantages include opportunities to develop useful cultural understandings and foreign language skills.

For example, 2003 graduate Naomi Stenning's arts/business degree included a GO stint at Sugiyama Women's University in Japan, where her fluency in Japanese helped her win scholarships to complete a masters (2004) and study for a PhD at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Asia Pacific Studies. Her PhD scholarship includes tuition, accommodation, flights and spending money; and her research on rural community development has taken her to Indonesia, Kenya and Uganda.

This year, the University had partnerships with more than 70 overseas institutions in 15 countries. GO places were available in Austria, China, Mexico, Ecuador, USA, UK, Japan, Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Norway. Further information on GO is available under Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicator "Number and proportion of eligible students undertaking part of their undergraduate program overseas".

## Financial assistance

Each GO participant received either a USC Overseas Study Grant of up to \$2,000, or one of several scholarships offered by particular overseas partner institutions, external organisations, and the Australian Government. This year, 37 students received USC Overseas Study Grants, and another 30 received other forms of financial assistance.

## Exchange Fair

Representatives from partner institutions in Austria, France and Germany attended the annual on-campus Exchange Fair for current and prospective USC students. International students spoke about their home schools and countries, and former GO Program participants shared their experiences.

## Increase the proportion of international students in the student body

### Student increase

On-campus international students this year accounted for 12.5 percent of the on-campus student body. This compares with 11.1 percent in 2007 and just below 10 percent each in 2005 and 2006. Numbers grew while percentages remained stable due to concurrent increases in domestic student enrolments. Most of these students were from Germany, followed by those from Canada, USA, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and India.

Further information on International students is available under Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicator 'Proportion of on-campus international students in the on-campus student body'.

## Increase the number of USC staff undertaking projects involving teaching and research in collaboration with international partner universities

International teaching and research collaborations this year included the following.

- USC and University of Iowa (UI) researchers continued a joint research project begun at the height of the 2007 horse flu epidemic. It included an assessment of local levels of human exposure to the virus and effects on human health—information which could help prevent future epidemics—and a visit to USC by the Director of UI's Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases, Professor Gregory Gray, who gave a public talk on the potential for an influenza pandemic and possibilities for bird, swine and horse flu transmission to humans.
- The University signed an agreement to provide professional development training for teachers from Indonesian (West) Papua. Fifteen teachers visited in May for a program which included working with USC science lecturers and observation of maths and science teaching in local high schools. The agreement aims to facilitate joint research projects and shared arrangements between USC and the Indonesian Government, as well as between Sunshine Coast and West Papuan schools.
- Two USC academics visited a remote school at Wamena, a mountain location in Indonesian (West) Papua accessible only by light aircraft, as part of a move to lift schooling standards. The school performs well in difficult circumstances including a need for all children, aged from five years, to board because of access problems. A second group of USC staff will go to Papua in January 2009.
- A USC health and sport scientist (one of only two Australian invited speakers) and colleagues from the German Sport University addressed the 10-day International Convention of Science Education and Medicine in Sport, held in Guangzhou.



Second-year journalism student Megan Mackander, an intern with American cable television channel MSNBC, helps host 3,000 journalists at the first presidential debate between John McCain and Barack Obama at the University of Mississippi (UM). Her GO experiences at UM also included work with the University's media relations team during the lead-up to the debate.

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- Three journalists from major Indonesian publications gave a talk on Indonesian media to journalism and Indonesian language students during a half-day campus tour—part of their two-day visit to South East Queensland researching articles on education and tourism.

### **Internationalise the curriculum**

The Internationalisation of the curriculum project has been carried forward as a 2009/2010 priority for the Learning and Teaching Management Committee. Adherence to the 16-8 program structure model facilitates student participation in the GO Program.

### **International outlooks**

USC students often used knowledge gained at the University to join in international events, and to work or study overseas.

- Elyse Wohling (arts/business) was selected to present a paper at the prestigious Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations conference in Malaysia. She spoke about the Australian Government's position on the relationship between China and Taiwan.
- Kylie Beard (education/science) taught in a remote highland village in Fiji, as one of 17 students and three lecturers who worked on a project USC started there last year in collaboration with Sunshine Coast tourism company Fiji Dreaming.
- Rei Joseph (social science/community work) founded Students With a Purpose (SWAP) in 2007 and led an initiative where he and four other students spent five weeks of their summer holidays in a Nepalese town working with families of children with muscular dystrophy. He took another group of students to Nepal from November–December 2008 to help build a community hospital.
- Kylie Stephenson (journalism) won an international competition offering a six-day tour of Cambodia and the chance to produce a documentary on local eye surgery work by the Fred Hollows Foundation.



*Professor Evan Douglas, Dean of Business, congratulates Dr PM Kam on receiving a PhD. Dr Kam is chief financial officer of Jardines in Hong Kong, a company with an annual turnover of \$36 billion, and studied offshore under supervision by Dr Chris Lambert. His thesis was on corporate governance and earnings management in Hong Kong—a study with implications for Hong Kong policymakers and for emerging markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region.*

### ***Promote appreciation of global and intercultural issues through interaction between international students, other parts of the University community and the broader community***

The Homestay program placed 878 English Language Program students with 240 different families. Homestay gives students the opportunity to live with an Australian family, experience the Australian culture and speak English on a daily basis.

USC students and staff joined members of the public at an on-campus mini-festival celebrating Harmony Day in March. Attractions included international and Indigenous dancing and singing, and multicultural cuisine; and USC's international students shared stories about their home countries and cultures.

Personal examples abound of the benefits that flow from interactions involving the University, local communities and overseas interests, such as a Nepalese student (education/arts) working towards a career in her home country, teaching poor children in remote communities. Raised in a village with no school, she eventually gained entry to USC in 2006 through the goodwill of others including American benefactors in Nepal and a Coolum couple who brought her to the Sunshine Coast in 2002 for further schooling at Mountain Creek State High School.

## Key performance indicators

### Proportion of on-campus international students in the on-campus student body

International on-campus EFTSL continues to increase each year in parallel with domestic on-campus EFTSL. Although the former has lifted substantially, it seems unlikely, under the current definition, that the KPI target (25 percent of all on-campus EFTSL by the end of 2010) will be achieved, due to the concurrent increase in domestic students. This is exacerbated further by increased numbers of programs and courses (TPP and TEP) that international students are unlikely to engage in.

### Number and proportion of eligible students undertaking part of their undergraduate program overseas

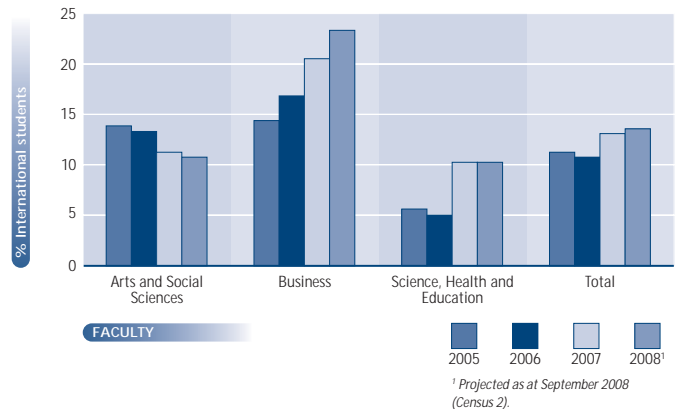
The number of students who complete part of their undergraduate programs overseas increases annually. Preliminary figures are available for 2008 and USC appears close to achieving its target for an annual increase in students undertaking part of their undergraduate program overseas.

The proportion of eligible Bachelor graduates to have undertaken part of their program overseas has increased from 4.1 percent in 2005, to 4.3 percent in 2006, to 6.6 percent in 2007 and to 7.5 percent in 2008. Based on this trend the University is on track to meet the target set for 2010 (10 percent of eligible Bachelor graduates to have undertaken part of their program overseas).

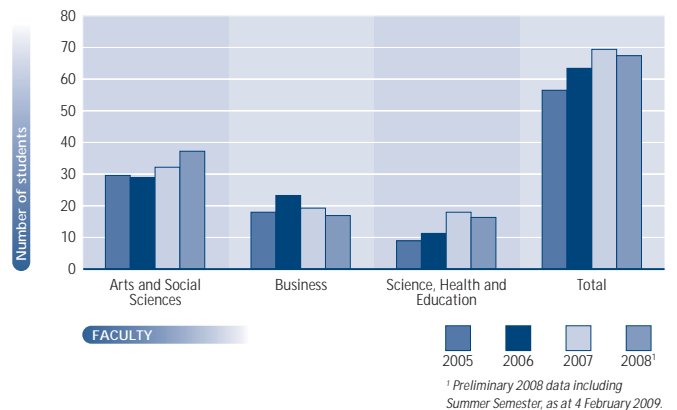
## The year 2009

- The Internationalisation of the curriculum project will be a priority for the Learning and Teaching Management Committee.
- USC academics will make a second visit to a remote school in Wamena, Indonesian (West) Papua to advance an initiative aimed at raising local levels of schooling.
- Increase international enrolments and diversify source countries.

On-campus international students as a proportion (%) of total on-campus students by faculty



Number of students undertaking part of their undergraduate program overseas by program faculty



Proportion of eligible bachelor graduates to have undertaken part of their undergraduate program overseas by faculty

