

PACIFIC EXPLORER: NEW CALEDONIA FIELD STUDIES

Experience Interdisciplinary fieldwork in a unique Melanesian ecosystem

JOIN US AND EXPERIENCE NEW CALEDONIA

An immersive, customizable academic experience in a unique overseas French territory

“We look forward to welcoming students and faculty from our overseas partner institutions into our Pacific Explorer: New Caledonia Field Studies.” Pr Catherine RIS, President, University of New Caledonia.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW CALEDONIA



At the crossroads of the Pacific, the University of New Caledonia stands out as a hub of academic excellence, cultural diversity, and environmental uniqueness. UNC fosters interdisciplinary research and innovation, with strong regional and international partnerships. Its unique setting promotes dialogue between tradition and modernity, science and society.

WHY CHOOSE NEW CALEDONIA FOR FIELD STUDIES?

- One of the world’s largest and most diverse coral reef systems
- Unique ultramafic soils and endemic flora and fauna
- Indigenous Kanak and Oceanian communities with strong customary traditions
- A dynamic socio-political environment blending French and Oceanian influences.

FIELD STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Conduct ecological and environmental surveys in terrestrial and marine habitats
- Document and analyze indigenous land use and resource management practices
- Explore social and cultural interactions between local communities and environment
- Investigate economic activities such as mining, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and sustainable tourism
- Apply interdisciplinary methods integrating natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities

A LA CARTE FIELD MODULES BY DISCIPLINE

Profile	Sample Fieldwork Topics & Activities (examples)
Environmental Sciences	Coral reef monitoring, soil sampling, endemic species identification
Marine Biology	Mangrove ecosystem studies, fish population surveys, marine protected areas
Anthropology	Ethnographic research with Kanak tribes, cultural heritage documentation
Sociology	Community resilience studies, impacts of economic transition
Geography	GIS mapping of land use, coastal erosion survey
Political Science	Governance of natural resources, land rights and customary law
Agricultural Sciences	Agroecological practices, sustainable crop production, traditional farming methods
Climate Science	Climate impact assessments, carbon sequestration studies
Business / Management	Field analysis of local businesses, nickel mining industry, sustainable tourism, entrepreneurship case studies

10-DAY FIELD STUDIES: FLEXIBLE PATTERN

Day 1: Arrival, Welcome, and Context Overview

- Introductions, orientation, safety briefing
- Overview of New Caledonia's geography, culture, economy, and environment

Days 2-4: Thematic Immersion

- Field visits and activities (e.g., environment, business, culture)
- Meetings with local experts, entrepreneurs, community leaders

Days 5-6: Deep Dive Modules

- Specialized workshops, case studies, or project-based learning (e.g., coral reef conservation, sustainable business models, Kanak cultural heritage)
- Group discussions or roundtables related to student focus areas

Day 7: Community and Cultural Engagement

- Immersive experiences with local communities or indigenous groups
- Cultural activities, language practice, or traditional events

Days 8-9: Synthesis and Project Work

- Collaborative group work to analyse findings and develop presentations or reports
- Mentoring sessions with faculty or local experts

Day 10: Presentations and Farewell

- Group presentations and feedback sessions
- Cultural farewell event
- Departure

SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED

- Co-design of program with faculty and researchers
- Local field guides and expert facilitators
- Equipment rental and logistics (boats, sampling gear)
- Accommodation and transport coordination
- Health & safety briefing and risk management
- Roadbook (FR or EN), visit briefings, certificates
- Optional: interpreter, field guides, meals

WHO IS IT FOR?

Ideal for faculty, researchers, and students in environmental sciences, social sciences, business, and interdisciplinary programs seeking immersive fieldwork experiences with academic rigor and local engagement.

Let your students discover a living laboratory of transition and resilience in the heart of the Pacific.



Contact & Information Coordinator: Pr Virginie de Barnier

Organization: University of New Caledonia

Email: international@unc.nc

Languages Spoken: French, English

New Caledonia is more than a destination - it's an academic journey.

