

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FLAGSHIP EVENTS 2019

## Cultural and Artistic Griffith 2019 Study Tour in New Caledonia

The Griffith 2019 study tour is the result of a two-year work collaboration between the UNC and Griffith University, with the active support of the Tjibaou Cultural Center. The objective was to bring to life an artistic residency that would include Aboriginal students from Griffith's Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art (CAIA) department led, at the time, by Bianca Beetson, Australian scholar and artist, and UNC students speaking an Oceanic language. The heart of the project was for students from Australia and New Caledonia to ignore the French and English languages and create their own way of communicating that would allow them to dialogue about their different cultures and identities and give birth to common artistic creations.

The aim is to extend the project to the different islands of the Pacific (Vanuatu and Australia 2021, French Polynesia 2022, New Zealand 2023). Ambassadors from previous stays will participate in each new program to serve as a living memory of the project, thus reinforcing a fundamental people to people practice of transmission.

For more information :

- Pacific Bond trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjE9LnL5wMQ>
- Bianca Beetson's feedback on the experience: <https://www.thegriffithcollective.com/2019/12/13/what-i-learnt-on-a-study-tour-to-new-caledonia/>



## Tailor-made intensive English training for UNC students at the University of Wollongong

In November 2019 UNC students enrolled in a BA of English Studies followed by a Wollongong University tailor-made 3-week intensive Australian Studies course. And UNC students not enrolled in a BA of English studies followed a 3-week intensive English course specifically designed for them by Wollongong University. Student's assessment at the end of the program showed their substantial progress. This collaboration with one of our Pacific partners proved, once again, to be extremely effective and reinforced our bilateral partnerships in the region.

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## 2019 French Summer School



The 2019 UNC French Summer School took place from 18 November to 6 December 2019. It consists in a 45-hour intensive French language-training program, complemented by many cultural as well as sport activities.

Hosted at by the international residence on at the UNC Nouville campus (Noumea), the students formed a very particularly dynamic group, invested in dedicated to their training, and eager to discover New Caledonian history and culture. Welcomed at the University by a customary inaugural ceremony, they started their tour by attending a seminar on Caledonian society, which was followed by with an introduction to the Kanak culture. They took part in multiple activities during the three weeks they spent in new Caledonia, including theater lessons, a cooking workshop in the bush, as well as organized visits to the key Caledonian museums, not to mention a sports biking day in the Blue River Park. We were proud of their academic performances and of their outstanding feedback on their overall experience.



## Study tour of the University of Kwansei-Gakuin, Japan

The study tour carried out in partnership with Kwansei-Gakuin University in August 2019 was designed to accompany Japanese students who had to work on a video project on the history of the Japanese presence in New Caledonia, as well as on the past and present links that exist between these two countries.

## Study tour of the University of Sydney, in partnership with the Charles Perkins Center

The purpose of this study tour was to allow students from the University of Sydney enrolled in different Bachelor degrees to work on health issues in New Caledonia. Specifically, they focused on the relationship between traditional Kanak medicine and so-called western medicine, as well as on the way Kanak patients and Medipole hospital staff communicate together.



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## AUT Students Internship in New Caledonian Industry, in partnership with the UNC Institute of Technology



Three students enrolled at Auckland University of Technology's Bachelor of Creative Technologies performed in 2019 a two-week internship at the UNC's University Institute of Technology (IUT), paving the way for the building of a new framework cooperation agreement between the IUT and the AUT. The main objective was for the AUT students to do an internship in Caledonian industry (i.e. at the Tjibaou Cultural Center, the Internet Provider: Lagoon, and the Skazy Agency) to develop their skills in the fields of creative arts, design, digital media and IT. In parallel, the UNC sent a student to AUT for a similar kind of internship.

## Award of an ERASMUS + International Scheme with the University of the South Pacific in Fiji

Building on its ERASMUS+ experience with Europe, the UNC was awarded in 2019 its first ERASMUS+ international scheme to support postgraduate students and staff inbound and outbound mobility between the two institutions. This offers a critical lever to fuel and expand academic cooperation in the region. Through this scheme, UNC PhD students will be able to perform a 6 months research internship at the USP, while USP Masters students will access a semester mobility at the UNC. The UNC was awarded in 2019 a similar scheme with the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and aims at realizing the same opportunity with Australia in a near future.



## Award of the H2020 FALAH project on family farming, lifestyles and health



Supported by the powerful dynamics of both the New Caledonian CRESICA research Consortium and the regional cooperation through the PIURN network (Pacific Islands Universities Research Network), the UNC was awarded in 2019 its first European research project (H2020, Marie Curie Actions - RISE / € 1.3 million over 4 years, namely the FALAH project).

Under FALAH, the UNC coordinates a scientific consortium bringing together 14 European and Pacific institutions on the issues of family farming and food security in the South Pacific. FALAH partners are CNRS, IRD, IAC, USP Fiji, LMU Munich, SINU Salomons, CTRAV and MOET in Vanuatu, as well as 4 Australian universities (U Sydney, UNSW, Western Sydney, Wollongong).

The objective is to build on the skills of the Consortium to design and deploy new research agendas on these critical themes. This award demonstrates both the institutional and scientific credibility of the UNC. This project further consolidates the PIURN dynamics, and provides substantial resources to empower and expand research cooperation with PIURN partners in the field.



## Defense of a cotutelle PhD thesis co-supervised by UNC and James Cook

Miss Alexia Dubuc performed a co-tutelle PhD thesis co-supervised by the UNC and James Cook University. She defended her thesis in 2019 in Townsville. The main objective of her PhD project was to understand how Dissolved Oxygen (DO) fluctuations affect mangrove fish assemblages. Several fieldtrips were undertaken in Australia and New Caledonia to address seasonal variations that may exist. This co-tutelle PhD thesis reinforced the collaboration between New Caledonia and Australian scientists on the understanding of mangroves ecosystems across the Coral Sea, bringing new knowledge of global relevance.



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