

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday 10 February 2016

Scholarships open for a taste of Maria Is marine biology

Up to four Tasmanian college students will have the chance to get a free taste of life as a marine biologist on Maria Island thanks to a range of scholarships that are now open for applications courtesy of IMAS, Redmap (www.redmap.org.au) and a donation from Australian historian Sir Christopher Clark.

As part of the University College Program, IMAS is offering four Tasmanian Year 11 and 12 students free enrolment to its six day course '*XAS101 A Practical Introduction to Temperate Marine Biology*' during the April school holidays from Sunday 10 April until Friday 15 April.

The course includes 5-days on Maria Island and one day in the classroom, which usually costs \$645.

Tasmanian college students who wish to apply will need to demonstrate a keen interest in the marine environment, or socio-economic or geographic disadvantage.

Course coordinator Dr Scott Ling said the University College Program allows Year 11 and 12 students to study university level units alongside their TCE studies.

"This is a great chance for students with an interest in science to live and breathe the life of a marine biologist for a whole week as they develop keen skills of observation and explore the marine environments of spectacular Maria Island," Dr Ling said.

"The course is designed to inspire, challenge and engage potential students.

"One of the great attractions of the course is the chance to get out of the classroom or laboratory and into the wild and ocean environs.

"The trip will allow students to apply marine biology theories, techniques and sampling methods during a practical field investigation of species diversity across a range of intertidal and sub-tidal habitats."

XAS101 is offered HECS-free and successful completion can be used to contribute one unit (12.5%) to a University of Tasmania Marine Biology degree.

Up to five additional scholarships are also on offer to encourage mainland college students to come to Tasmania to experience our unique marine environment and consider study at the University of Tasmania.

To receive a scholarship application pack visit the University of Tasmania website:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/courses/imas/units/xas101-a-practical-introduction-to-temperate-marine-biology>

Scholarship applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 2 March 2016. Enrolments for the course close at 5pm on Thursday 24 March.

A video about the Maria Island course can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzZUYUmBoiw>

IMAS Media Contact: Andrew Rhodes (03) 6226 6683 or 0417 239 537, email: ajrhodes@utas.edu.au

Information released by:

Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 61 3 6226 2124

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au