



2nd March 2022

SUBJECT: STUDENT OPPORUNITY FOR 'THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION VIRTUAL EXCHANGE' PROGRAM WITH WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY APRIL-MAY 2022

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Western Sydney University is offering a unique opportunity for undergraduate Science and Engineering students to engage in an online global learning experience between Australian and Indian. The online exchange will take a deeper look at **urban water, farming practices and conservation systems**, through a sustainability lens, between and within Australian and Indian contexts. The tentative program dates are currently 11th April – 30th May 2022.

As a member of the Australian India Water Centre (AIWC) network we wanted to extend this opportunity to your students. We are also partnering with Lucknow University.

During the virtual exchange students will undertake a comparative desktop scientific research project, network with international peers and experts, and engage in cultural immersion activities from home to build a life-long learning and connections to the Indo-Pacific. Accompanying this letter is a flyer for your students outlining further details on the program and a draft schedule.

Each university in the Australian India Water Centre (AIWC) network may nominate **up to 2 undergraduate students** who may be interested in applying. The AIWC will be selecting the successful applications based on the merit of their applications. We have funds and space to support a maximum of 15 students and will be offering successful students a mini grant each (valued at Rs 5000) to support their research project and in-country fieldwork as applicable as part of this virtual exchange.

Our Western Sydney University students are receiving academic credit for their participation in the program and will be completing an assessment task weighted at 10% of the total subject. You may wish to consider this option for your own students in your own universities, but it is not necessary. All students will also receive an e-certificate in recognition of their participation at the conclusion of the program.

We are also seeking interested community members, local experts or academics in this field who might be interested in delivering a short lecture via Zoom (20-minutes with 10-minute discussion time) or creating a video snapshot (maximum 8-minutes) and have a modest speaking fee to cover their time. We would welcome your recommendations on this in line with our theme. We will have speakers from our local educational networks as well as University participating.



We truly believe this will be a valuable opportunity for your students and universities, and a great way for our network to connect and strengthen our partnerships.

Expressions of interest will close on Friday, 18th March 2022, and interested students can apply directly online via our Google Form: <https://forms.gle/1Vh7fxmTUsrBE7Uz8>. We understand this is a tight deadline and appreciate your cooperation.

If you have any questions regarding the program or speaker recommendations, please feel free to contact Brittany via b.hardiman@westernsydney.edu.au

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Basant Maheshwari'.

Prof. Basant Maheshwari

Professor – Water, Environment & Sustainability
School of Science, Western Sydney University
Australia India Water Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brittany Hardiman'.

Brittany Hardiman

Sustainability Coordinator
Sustainability Education, Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures)
Western Sydney University