



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

6 December 2016

2017 NEW COLOMBO PLAN SCHOLARS IN CAMBODIA

The Australian Government will provide two long-term prestigious New Colombo Plan scholarships to Ms Rachael Dodds and Ms Jessica Birch-Critchley to live, study and intern in Cambodia in 2017.

Ms Dodds and Ms Birch-Critchley will be joined by a further 440 Australian undergraduate students who will undertake short-term study and internships in Cambodia in 2017.

Ms Dodds and Ms Birch-Critchley will be hosted by Pannasastra University of Cambodia.

They will gain invaluable practical experience of Cambodian workplaces through internships and mentorships. Ms Dodds plans to intern with the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation. Ms Birch-Critchley will undertake an internship with Cambodia Living Arts and a mentorship with the Cambodian Ministry of Fine Arts.

"New Colombo Plan scholars in Cambodia are among Australia's best and brightest, who have demonstrated academic excellence, community engagement and a strong commitment to engaging with the people of Cambodia," said Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran.

"I am delighted that the New Colombo Plan will deepen the bonds of friendship, understanding and opportunity between Australia and Cambodia. Our scholars' experiences and the friendships and professional connections they make will shape them and Australia's engagement with Cambodia for many years to come," the Ambassador said.

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to live, study and undertake internships in the region.

Globally, the Australian Government has supported 17,500 Australian undergraduate students to live, study and intern in the Indo-Pacific region, during the first four years of the New Colombo Plan.

Media enquiries: Australian.Embassy.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au; 023 213 470