



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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2020 NEW COLOMBO PLAN TO DEEPEN AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF CAMBODIA

Through its New Colombo Plan program, the Australian Government will support over 500 Australian undergraduate students to live, study and undertake work placements in Cambodia in 2020.

“We look forward to welcoming students from 14 Australian universities across Australia to learn more about the people and the culture of Cambodia,” Australian Chargé d’Affaires, Mr Luke Arnold said.

These students will work with Cambodian counterparts to share knowledge and skills in a diverse range of fields, including engineering; water and sanitation; health; teaching; and law.

One long-term New Colombo Plan scholar, Bonnie Hammerschmidt, will spend eight months in Cambodia. Ms Hammerschmidt will study psychology at the University of Cambodia and undertake an internship with Banteay Srei, an NGO working with women and children. Ms Hammerschmidt is one of 125 high achieving students awarded scholarships to undertake longer-term work experience and study across countries in the Indo-Pacific.

“Australia is the overseas English-speaking study destination of choice for Cambodian students, with almost 3,000 Cambodians enrolled in our world-class education institutions. Combined with the fact that so many young Australians are now choosing to study in Cambodia under the New Colombo Plan, this ensures our bilateral relationship will be underpinned by strong people-to-people links,” Mr Arnold said.

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government to boost Australia’s knowledge of the Indo-Pacific by supporting Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in the region.

More than 60,000 Australian students have taken part in New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility grants since 2014.

For more information on the New Colombo Plan, visit www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan or follow @NewColomboPlan

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