

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Scholarships open for a taste of Maria Is marine biology

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 the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (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 school holidays from Sunday, 10 April, until Friday, 15 April.

The course, which includes five days on Maria Island and one day in the classroom, 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>

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