

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Tassie student to represent Australia in international studies program

A student from the University of Tasmania has become the only Australian selected this year to undertake a two year masters program in sustainable economics at Lund University in Sweden.

Ruth Oettle, who has completed a double degree in economics and environmental geography, will undertake a Masters degree in environmental studies and sustainability science.

She is one of only 35 international students accepted into the course, which begins in August.

Passionate about the environment, Ruth believes continuing education is the key factor to her “making a difference” in international environmental issues.

“We only have one environment and we’re not looking after it properly,” she said.

“I understand the need to use the land for forestry, farming and so on, but we need to do so in a sustainable manner – a compromise between the two extremist views is needed to achieve sustainability.

“We have a responsibility, not only to future generations of humans, but also to the other species we share the planet with, to protect the environment and using sustainable practices is a good place to start.

“Sweden has some excellent environmental policies and I am looking forward to studying over there,” she said.

“Without my degrees from UTAS and the support I received from my lecturers it would have been much harder to be accepted into this course.”

A keen bushwalker and cub leader with 1st Derwent Sea Scouts, Ruth is no stranger to representing Australia, having done so as one of 18 Australian high school delegates at the inaugural APEC youth science festival in Korea in 1998.

Ruth also spent 12 months in France as a Rotary Exchange student in 2001, where she went to school in a small town near Geneva.

Supporting herself through University with up to five jobs, Ruth is now seeking sponsorship to help ease the financial burden incurred while studying in a foreign country.

For interviews contact Ruth Oettle. Ph: 0418 263 979. Mon & Thurs at UTAS, ph 6226 2412.

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