

## A660 Graduate Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management



Revegetation Coastal Wadawurrung Country, Victoria



Customary burning, NT

## ***Course Outline of the Graduate Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management***

### **Part time load (2 units per trimester)**

1st year Trimester 1	UNIT TITLES IND710 Interpreting Cultural Landscapes IND711 Exploring Collaborative Land Management	1 credit point 1 credit point
Trimester 2	IND715 Research and Communication for Land Management IND714 Strategic Planning and Project Management for Managing Country	1 credit point 1 credit point
Trimester 3 (for mid-year intake students)	IND715 Research and Communication for Land Management IND714 Strategic Planning and Project Management for Managing Country	1 credit point 1 Credit point
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trimester 1	IND712 Policy and Governance for Land Management IND 716 Professional Practice for Land Managers <b>OR</b> AIM706 Intangible Heritage	1 credit point 1 credit point 1 credit point
Trimester 2	IND713 New Media and the Environment IND 717 Facilitation and Engagement for Managing Country For further information on the Unit Descriptions please go to Deakin University Handbook 2019.	1 credit point 1 credit point <a href="#">Handbook 2019</a>

The *Graduate Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management* has been offered at the Institute of Koorie Education (IKE Deakin University) in Geelong for the past 23 years and has seen over 100 students, from all around Australia, graduate from the course. Examples of the types of roles and activities graduates now work in include:

- CEOs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
- Park rangers
- Liaison and engagement positions with various NGOs
- Cultural heritage Advisors and consultants
- Regional managers
- CMA water officers
- Masters and PhD candidates

The course is designed to enhance transferable skills for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners involved in the very broad and varied responsibilities related to caring for Country which includes both land and sea Country management and the interpretation of Country.

The course is managed under the Faculty of Arts and Education at Deakin University and is offered during Trimesters 1, 2 and 3\_which run between March-June; July- October and November to February each year. It is offered as a 2 year, **part-time** enrolment with 2 units of study per trimester.

### **Course Map**

- The course is composed of 8 credit points. There is an exit point after the completion of 4 units with a qualification: *Graduate Certificate of Land and Sea Country Management*
- The course requires the *comprehensive use* of a computer and internet access to use Deakin University's study platform CloudDeakin
- It is offered at the Institute of Koorie Education in a Community Based Delivery (CBD) mode. Each trimester is composed of an 11 week study period as well as 2X one week long Intensive over that 11 weeks
- The Intensives may include fieldtrips away from the Institute
- All transport, accommodation and food is paid for by Away from Base Commonwealth funding
- A student must be registered with Abstudy
- Students from all around Australia are welcome

The course prepares a graduate for working in the areas of:

- Interpretation and cultural heritage conservation and planning
- Caring for Country
- Natural and Cultural Resource Management (NCRM)
- Coastal marine management
- Freshwater management
- Writing, research and communication
- Facilitation and engagement for land management
- Environmental management
- Indigenous Protected Areas(IPA) management

- visual media
- Strategic planning and Project Management for Country
- Water catchment management

The course assumes that all land in Australia is a cultural landscape. This perspective is now being incorporated into natural and cultural resource management public policy in its development of Whole of Country planning throughout Australia and the rolling out of Joint Management of Protected Areas in Australia.

In particular, the course assumes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives on heritage and land and sea management must be incorporated into NCRM decision-making to develop more comprehensive and informed land management decisions. This course prepares the student to become more proactive, skilled and informed in such decision-making and project implementation and the knowledge and skills learned during the course are considered transferable throughout the sector. Students who study the course include Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live and work both on and off Country.

### ***What is required for successful study in the course?***

- Deakin University has an 11 week long trimester, delivered by Deakin's online learning platform called CloudDeakin. CloudDeakin is where students access weekly online topics, lectures and Discussions Boards. For this reason, reliable and up-to-date IT is vital to study the course as well as adequate internet access. Intensive weekly study involves reading widely, watching films and writing assessment tasks
- Alongside this online study includes 2 X one-week long intensives during each trimester. Students come to the Waurin Ponds campus in Geelong to stay at the purpose built Kitjarra residences to attend classes. The Intensives are where students come together to discuss, workshop, present talks and travel on fieldtrips. A number of the assignments take place during the intensives so compulsory attendance is required. A detailed discussion of these requirements will take place during the interview process after an application has been received
- Self-motivation, independent study and the ability to link the study materials to locally relevant projects is the successful way to study this course. At the start of the course, students are asked to identify a range of ideas and projects that will suit the year of study

### ***Accommodation at Deakin University***

Students stay at Kitjarra residences on the campus, a short walk from the Institute of Koorie Education's teaching facility. During this time, students network with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who come from all around Australia. It is during this time

that informal knowledge is exchanged about issues that relate to Country. This forms part of learning, and plays an important role of networking and spreading ideas and information around the country.

### ***Expectations of study***

We assume that students will have knowledge, experience and a position on their relationship with land and the role they play over its custodianship. With this cultural perspective, knowledge, experience and motivation, they are asked to engage with the on-line Cloud Resources comprehensively and at times between their fellow students.

As mentioned, students may live off Country or on Country and may have varying degrees of knowledge and understanding of cultural and environmental issues in their local areas and nationally. What is important however, is the *cultural perspective* and *knowledge exchange* they bring to the course from their own local Communities and the desire to increase their skill level during the course. Skills gained from the course are considered transferable throughout Australia and can then be applied to varying local situations.

The Assessment Tasks are broad enough to enable student interests to be pursued. They also tend to veer towards context based, problem-solving or real world situations which motivates students to apply their skills and knowledge to solve these problems. Students are asked to bring information on issues that are pertinent to their local area, so this requires keeping an eye out for newspaper reports, websites and environmental analysis in general.

One way to approach this course is to see it as a 2 year unfolding learning process that incrementally builds up a repertoire of knowledge and strategies that can open doors, enlighten others and put in place new perspectives that will contribute to the successful caring of Country.

It is important that the student sees the start and end of the course knowing what to expect and what they wish to learn. By planning for this and proactively studying to address one's own needs as well as Community, this ensures a higher level of engagement and continued interest. Because it is studied at a Graduate Diploma level, there is also the opportunity for students to acquire the knowledge they feel will contribute to bigger picture issues such as styles of management, the inclusion of Traditional Knowledge and the policy-framing arena.

We hope you find the course stimulating, enlightening and a contribution to your career as well as a playing a significant role in your own way of caring for Country. For further information please contact our staff.

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