



UNC
GLOBAL

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of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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September 1, 2011

Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues:

Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in the nation of Brunei on the island of Borneo in SE Asia. This will be a two-way exchange, with Fall, Spring and Year-long options. Further information about the University can be reviewed at: <http://www.ubd.edu.bn>.

The establishment of this program is supported by the Department of Asian Studies.

Context

Brunei is a small (approx size of 2,200 sq miles and population of 400,000) oil-production nation that enjoys a very high standard of living (listed in the highest tier of nations in the UN Human Development Index). English is widely spoken. Modern medical facilities are available at the national hospital (RIPAS) close to campus, and Singapore is a 1-2 hour flight away if additional medical support is needed. Brunei is a very safe country for our students- the DOS travel website lists violent crime in Brunei as rare. The campus is located in the capital city of Bandar Seri Begawan and is very convenient to shopping, restaurants, and tourist and medical facilities.

UBD has already hosted two UNC-Chapel Hill study abroad programs for short-term visits (UNC SE Asia Semester Program with Prof Peter Coclanis in May 2011 and the UNC SE Asian Summer Program with Prof Afroz Taj and John Caldwell in June 2011) and provided interactions with local students, an overview of local history, language and cultures, and an introduction to the university field station and biodiversity in the region. Evaluations from our participants and faculty on both trips were in unison praising the strong efforts and high academic quality that UBD put towards the programs.

Dan Gold (Asia Programs Director) visited with faculty and staff of UBD and reviewed the facilities in Summer 2010. Additionally Professor Larry Band (Director, UNC Institute for the Environment) visited the campus in early 2011 as the founding meeting of the international consortium of universities for the study of biodiversity and environment of which UNC-Chapel

Hill and UBD are both members. The Vice-Chancellor of UBD and other senior faculty and administrators have also visited UNC-Chapel Hill.

Program Rationale

The small size of the university and nation, the local cultural and religious traditions, the prevalence of English, the high standard of living/safety and high quality of education and abundance of protected natural lands (including a university rain forest field site only a couple of hours from campus) make UBD an ideal location for students interested in exploring Asian Studies (particularly Malay Studies), natural resources, city and regional planning, Islam, anthropology and tribal culture, and rain forest ecology. Students on the program will be given a unique cultural immersion opportunity that not many students have, as UBD is just now starting to open up collaborations with US institutions.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

The University, the largest in Brunei, was founded in 1985 (just one year after Brunei gained independence from the UK). University College, Cardiff, and the University of Leeds were initial partners who helped in the development of their English-language programs. Currently the university consists of 2,800 students and 300 academic staff. English is the main language of instruction.

The university consists of the following faculties:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS):

Students can take courses in the following areas: Art & Creative Technology; Bahasa Melayu & Linguistik; English Language & Linguistics; English Literature; Environmental Studies; Geography & Development; Historical Studies; Kesusasteraan Melayu; Professional Communication & The Media; Sociology & Anthropology; Southeast Asian Studies; Drama & Theatre Studies; Philosophy; Gender Studies; Tourism.

Faculty of Science (FOS)

Offers courses in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics (includes Applied Mathematics, Fundamental Mathematics, and Statistics, Operations Research and Financial Mathematics), Applied Physics, Computer Science and, Geology and Petroleum Geology

Language Centre (LC)

Has offered courses in Malay, Arabic, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin and Spanish, German, Tagalog and Thai.

Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies (FBEPS)

Offers courses in the department of Business and Management, department of Economics and Department of Public Policy and Administration and also the Institute of Policy studies.

Academy of Brunei Studies (APB)

Interdisciplinary center which includes focus and courses on Language, Religion, Literature,

History, Culture, Economics, Education, Management, Public Policy, Natural Science and Geography of Brunei

Additional faculties include the Institute of Health Sciences and The Institute of Medicine and the Institute of Education

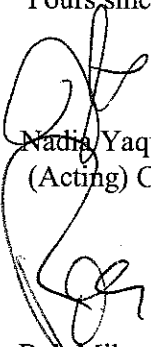
The Program

The UBD first semester is from August to December and second semester from January through May. Our students could stay at UBD for either semester or the full year, and would take a full course load of 12-18 credit hours per semester. This exchange program will convey UNC-CH transfer credit (TREQ). Our students will primarily take courses in FASS and FOS.

Our students will receive support from the UBD International Office, including placement in on-campus dormitories, international student orientation and activities and the full range of services provided to regular undergraduates on campus. For our students, there is a minimum GPA requirement of 3.0. Students must have at least sophomore status. There is no language requirement.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Nadia Yaqub
(Acting) Chair of Asian Studies



Bob Miles

Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges