It has been a very busy year of change in the Study Abroad and Student Exchange Office at Curtin. We have moved into our new office, said goodbye to some staff and welcomed others. You can see our updated list of staff on the last page of this newsletter.

In addition to working on growing our semester exchange numbers, we are starting to focus even more on short-term programs with our partners and other institutions.

It’s going to be a very busy year in 2018 as we implement our new programs and ideas. To reflect the changes and expanded opportunities for our office, we have changed our name to Curtin Abroad.

In the first edition of Exchange you met our office mascot, Curtin Koala. We have a new addition to our office, and our kangaroo needs a name. We’d love to get your suggestions! You can follow more adventures of Curtin Koala on page 3.

A Dream Come True

Our cover story is from Aneliya Kalcheva, who was on exchange at Curtin from Robert Gordon University in Scotland. Her article captures the essence of the exchange experience in Perth. Enjoy reading about her many adventures!

Going to Australia was an absolute adventure and a dream come true! I am strongly recommending it to anyone, who wants to see the other side of the world. Down Under, as they call it, is a magnificent place. I was in Perth, which is the biggest isolated city in the world - meaning that every other city is just too far away!

Curtin is such a great place! There are many buildings and a lot of nature! You can sit under the big trees near the library or go to the hammocks just to relax.

There are different food trucks every day around campus with different cuisines and every Wednesday there is a market with live music.

The campus is so beautiful and green. There are many stadiums and open spaces for sport, a gym as well and the accommodation houses are at the end of the campus. You basically live in a small house with six to eight people and share a big kitchen and a living room.

In terms of studying - you will usually have lectures and a tutorial, where you work in smaller groups. It was not hard to fit in as the lecturers were very helpful and the other students were also supportive. There is a big library, lots of cafes and bookshops in the campus itself and a shopping centre just outside the campus.

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Global Exchange Rep Report

The Global Exchange Reps are a group of students who have been on exchange, are currently on exchange, or are interested in going on exchange.

The Reps also include inbound students from all over the world who provide useful information to Curtin students about studying at their home university and living in their country.

This year was also a year of change for the Global Exchange Rep program as it joined the New-to-Curtin Mentor Program. Twenty one of the fifty Reps completed specialised mentor training and were then matched with a group of incoming students from their own exchange university or region.

During the semester the mentors provided valuable information and advice to their mentees about making the most out of their time as a student at Curtin, as well as about living in Perth and travelling in the region.

On this page you can read the stories of two exchange students from Curtin whose experiences inspired them to become Global Exchange Reps.

Inspiring Experiences

Lauren Stepanovski went on exchange to Brock University in Canada.

Having the opportunity to go on exchange has been the biggest highlight of my degree.

Not only do you experience university in another country but you open yourself up to new challenges, new people and new cultures.

The people you meet become life-long friends and the memories you make are priceless.

Lauren Stepanovski pictured at the Grand Canyon (above) and taking on one of her many challenges (below left).

It also builds on characteristics that potential employers love such as cultural awareness, leadership and confidence. Leaving to go on exchange is exciting but coming home isn’t fun. You’ll never want to leave!

Becoming a Global Exchange Rep is a great way to overcome this by re-living your exchange memories through helping the incoming exchange students adjust to studying at Curtin.

The experiences that you pass on can make all the difference to someone. I would urge every student to take up this amazing and rewarding opportunity before they graduate!

As well as completing our own individual books, our class project was to make an international student guide. Over 4000 copies were printed and they will be distributed to students studying in Amsterdam in 2017/2018.

I made my individual book about my experiences in Amsterdam, called Life on the Other Side. It was due in April when I had only been here for two months, but now looking back I have done so much more.

I have travelled all around Europe and made a lot of great friends. I also saw my first snow! Its going to be hard adjusting back to driving my car in Perth instead of cycling everywhere. Going on exchange was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Jade Richards became a Global Exchange Rep after studying at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, where she was also a Student Ambassador.

I studied a publishing minor on exchange in Amsterdam and it was my first time being in Europe.

Jade’s own book Life on the Other Side pictured left, and the book she published with a group of other students below.
Where in the world is Curtin Koala?

Curtin Koala made the long journey by plane and train from Perth to Hertfordshire, where he attended university with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce student David Blayney.

Chaz Howkins, on exchange at Curtin from Loughborough University in the UK, took Curtin Koala with her on her trips to Bangkok and Brisbane (below and below left).

Where in the world are our students?

Above: Tracey Smith, Megan Burt and Jacqui Lobb at the University of Guelph Homecoming ice hockey game.

Right: Callin McEntee with a friend in Norway.
New Colombo Plan News

Curtin has been very successful in securing funds for NCP projects in 2018 across the Indo-Pacific region.

Over $1.12 million in funds will support 230 students to participate in 36 mobility projects across the region. In addition, Curtin will be the lead university in a successful application from a consortium of Australian universities for a multi-year Society and Culture project in India.

NCP Program Opens Doors

Christopher Hemingway received an NCP Grant to spend an exchange semester at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Here he shares his experiences and images from his time there.

The NCP program was an incredible opportunity to not only study and live in the Indo-Pacific region but also build some lifelong friendships with students from around the world.

As a mature age student studying Urban and Regional Planning, I felt I was best placed living within the city of Singapore rather than on campus in NTU to truly experience what made Singapore such a thriving urban success within the region.

I would spend every spare second wandering the city streets, talking to the culturally diverse communities, photographing the daily life of Singaporeans and building relationships with other like-minded students who also made the decision to live in the city and experience it to its fullest.

Project Oasis exposes Singapore’s willingness to explore urban art and culture.

The NCP grant was essential in making this financially possible and I will be forever grateful as the experience has heavily influenced my thinking and direction in life moving forward.

Studying Malay Bahasa as part of the NCP program encouraged me to travel numerous times to Malaysia but also Indonesia where my brother and his family live. This not only expanded my knowledge of a part of the region that I already found extremely fascinating and hope to work in one day but gave me a new-found love of a city. Jakarta, as chaotic as it is, is full of remarkable people and amazing opportunities for growth if guided correctly. I hope I can play a role in supporting this growth in the future.

Finally the abundance of ambition and energy amongst students was astounding. I befriended Google sponsored masters students from Portugal building transformative robots at NTU, I lived next door in Chinatown to an Uber sponsored masters student at NUS from Amsterdam working on algorithms for driverless cars.

In Little India I lived one floor down from one of the brightest guys I’ll ever meet, a French corporate law student in his final year at INSEAD Business School focusing his thesis on the injustices surrounding the lack of prosecutions of textile industry owners in Bangladesh’s numerous building tragedies.

Another student from Amsterdam studied Eco-Architecture in the Urban Environment with me and together we explored the streets nearly daily sharing stories, food, our love of Singapore and future goals. He followed me back to Perth not long after the semester to see my city and friends and I hope to see his Amsterdam soon enough.

The NCP program opens these doors and enables these connections to exist. These students are our future. It was a privilege to learn with them, from them and experience all the riches Singapore had to offer with them.

Above: Some of the NCP gang from Curtin, Perth enjoying some delicious Singapore tucker within the famous Tiong Bahru Hawker Market.

Below: The Hive at NTU is one of the most ground-breaking architecturally sound designs in the world and Chris was lucky enough to study there three days a week.
What I would recommend while being in Australia is to travel! See as much as you can! There are a few interesting places around Perth that you can see but the university organises even longer trips of three to seven days.

There is a tuition free week every four to five weeks of studying, and most exchange students use them to travel. You will meet the other exchange people at the beginning of the semester as the Curtin Abroad office is very helpful and organises lots of events. You can participate in many events, clubs and be part of the social life at Curtin.

You will meet many animals and birds - there are no kangaroos walking around the city but there are tons of birds flying around. You can see pink ducks and white parrots in front of your door and hear strange noises all the time. I arrived there in the winter and I had the luck to not meet many spiders and insects. I had a repellent all the time with me but there weren’t any snakes sleeping in my bed as many people expect when you say you are going to Oz.

Don’t forget to see the black swans, the kangaroos in the zoo or on Heirisson Island. See Fremantle, Kings Park and the famous beaches. Basically just open a tour guide and go everywhere, you will have plenty of time!

Try new foods - there are so many good fruits and veg - mangoes are a must! There are plenty of open markets with local food during the weekends, which are a great place for exploring the food. The English they speak is quite cute and nice (and easier to understand than the Scottish accent), so I had no problem with that!

To sum up, I am very pleased with my trip and I didn’t have any problems with anything. Curtin is a great university and Perth is the sunniest city in Australia! I’m still in love with Australia and hoping to go there again any time soon!
Curtin Abroad have teamed with the Careers Centre at Curtin to develop a set of online modules called the Global Discovery Challenge, an exciting new learning tool designed to help students get the most out of their global experience.

There are four modules within the challenge, located at [https://challenge.curtin.edu.au/](https://challenge.curtin.edu.au/) and the students complete them before, during and after their experience abroad.

- **Planning and applying** helps the students make decisions about where to go and what program to choose, whether it be a semester exchange, a short-term program or an internship or volunteering opportunity.
- **Before I Go** prepares the students for the cultural differences they will encounter and provides resources for the students to ensure they are ready for the experience of living and studying abroad.
- **Being There** provides support to the student whilst they are actually abroad, including information about cultural adaptation and being a global citizen.
- **Coming Back** ensures the student reflects on the experience of being abroad, and uses their experiences to prepare for applying for jobs or further study.

Curtin Abroad offers students a variety of information sessions to assist them to plan and prepare for their experience abroad.

Visit our website or facebook page for more information

For more information about this newsletter and to send any comments, please contact:

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