



Review Graduate Certificate in R2R Sustainable Development

2019

Review of Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development

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Introduction

James Cook University's [Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development](#) is a bespoke teaching and learning program developed in support of the Pacific Community's Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) management program. The R2R program aims to maintain and enhance the value and resilience of Pacific Island countries ecosystem goods and services through integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resource engagement that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

The Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development teaching program is built on James Cook University's world-leading profile in teaching and research focussed specifically on the tropical world. The Ridge to Reef teaching program focusses on up-skilling local practitioners via an integrated series of high quality learning units delivered by James Cook University's expert teaching staff.

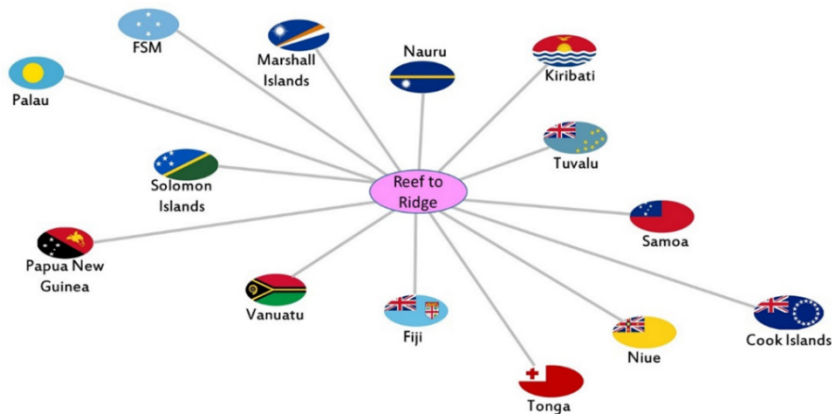
Ridge to Reef is an initiative of Global Environment Facility. The Global Environment Facility unites 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

Global Environment Facility identified the information and skills required by the Pacific Island communities and developed, in conjunction with James Cook University a Postgraduate program to meet these needs.

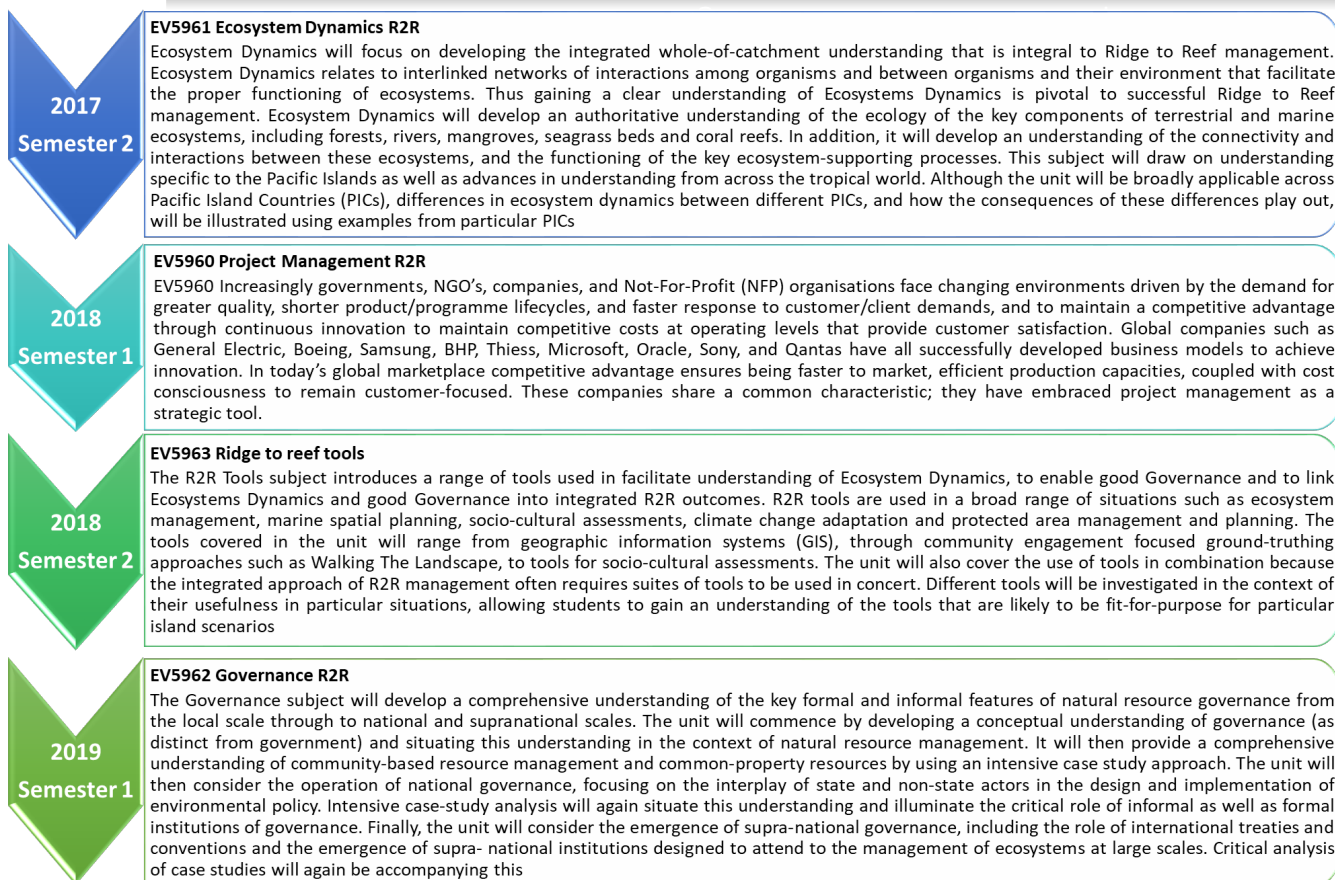
Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development

There are four subjects in the Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development [EV5961 Ecosystem Dynamics, EV5960 Project Management R2R, EV5963 Ridge to Reef tools and EV5962 Governance R2R]. See Subjects descriptions below.

This Program commenced in second semester 2017 with EV5961 Ecosystem Dynamics, with students completing subsequent subjects in the following semesters, with the final subject [EV5962 Governance R2R] being completed in first semester, 2019.



Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development



Students success in the Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Program

Thirty six students have successfully completed all four subjects in the Graduate Certificate of R2R Sustainable development Program. These students are to be congratulated on their success given the challenges that some students face i.e. poor internet access. In general, students did very well in the four subjects, with more than 28% of students receiving grades of Distinction or High Distinction in each of the subject, aligning with quality university standards.

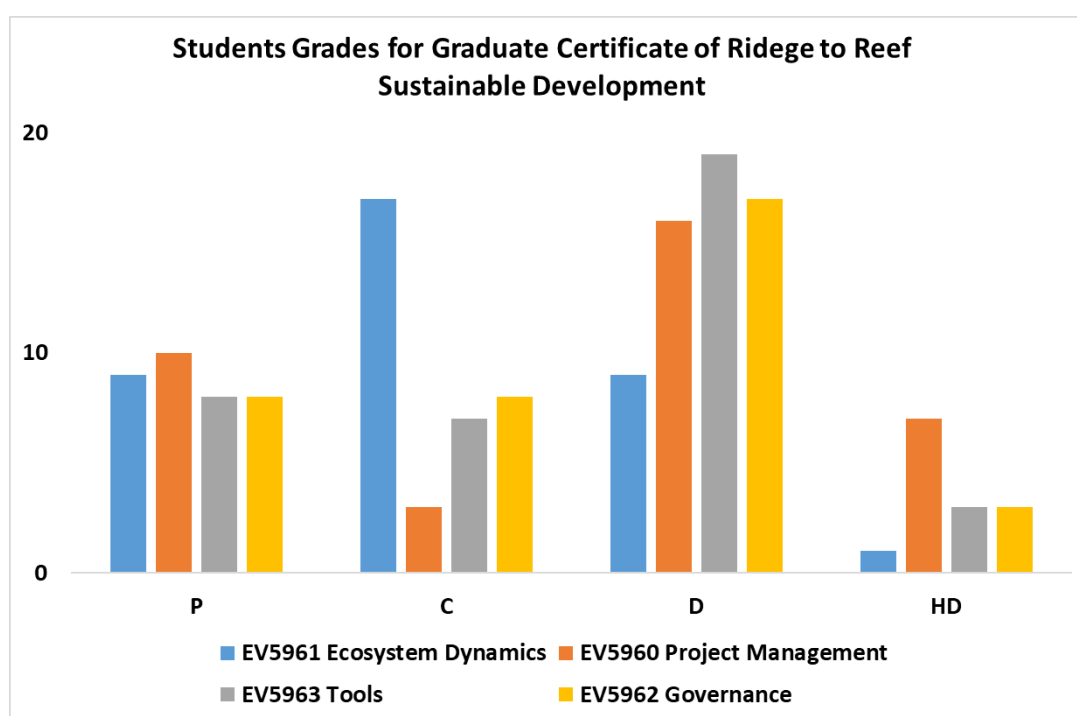


Figure 1: Student's grades for all four subjects in the Graduate Certificate of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development. P= Pass, C = Credit, D = Distinction, HD = High distinction

Graduation Ceremony

Students that successfully completed all four subjects in the Graduate Certificate of R2R Sustainable Development will be attending an Attendance Graduation Ceremony at the Tanoa Hotel, in Nadi, Fiji, 2019. The Ceremony will be on Wednesday, 31st July, 2019 at 3.00pm.

The Graduate Diploma of R2R Sustainable Development

These successful students will then commence the first subject in the Graduate Diploma of R2R Sustainable Development. The first subject is EV5965 Best Practice Management Tools – R2R will include a five-day intensive face-to-face component, in Nadi, Fiji (following the graduation).

All students must complete the first two subjects [EV5965 Best Practice Management Tools R2R and EV5964 Integrated Management of R2R Ecosystems]. Then students will have the option to choose either the Management stream or the Technical stream.

Graduate Diploma of Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development

EV5965: Best Practice Management Tools – Ridge to Reef 2019, Semester 2

This subject builds knowledge of tools, frameworks and methods that are at the cutting edge of successful integrated R2R sustainable development, the reasons why they are used, how they should be employed and how their importance can be communicated to end-users. The specific tools and frameworks discussed will focus principally on tried and tested approaches to facilitating management that are currently the basis for best practice management in PICTs. However, newly developed tools, such as the Wetland Prioritisation Decision Support System for Great Barrier Reef Catchments, that have potential application to specific PICTs contexts will also be investigated, together with how the tools could be adapted and operationalised for use in PICTs R2R management, where and in what situations they would be appropriate, and the constraints on their application. The BPMTs and their application will be discussed in contrasting PICT situations, to cover the range of variation in island geography, society and issues, consequently providing students with a functional toolbox and the ability to select the tools that are fit for their particular situation and purpose



EV5964: Integrated Management of Ridge to Reef Ecosystems 2020, Semester 1

The 'Integrated Management of Ridge to Reef Ecosystems' module will be fully customised to optimise use of PIC case studies and pilot projects to identify, assess and prioritise problems and potential solutions. It will cover key biophysical processes of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, and how they are influenced by human activities (particularly timber harvesting, agriculture, urban settlements and fishing) in the context of PIC land/sea tenure, governance and institutions. The key learning outcomes will be (i) a practical understanding of the connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, (ii) the ability to understand and identifying parts of this system that are sensitive and/or vulnerable to environmental changes. Equipped with these understandings, and a suite of practical competencies, graduates will be well-placed to understand the drivers, consequences and best solutions to address a range of key environmental issues. This subject will enhance the capacity of the graduates to develop and implement innovative and locally relevant approaches, measures and tools to integrate land, forest, water and coastal management to enhance food and income security and health, and reduce risk of disasters

Management stream

Technical stream

EV5966: 03. Public Policy Tools 2020, Semester 2

This subject provides an introduction to key concepts and models associated with public policy analysis and management. It will critique traditional policy-making approaches, which are heavily based on "rational decision-making models" or variants of them, and explore other models such as institutionalist, feminist and interpretivist models, which focus on the nature and structure of government and political society. Emphasis will be on applying conceptual knowledge to understanding the complexity of public policy processes, the impact of public policies on society, and how practitioners can avoid policy failures and disasters and choose and implement policies that work. The subject is divided into three parts. The first covers goals, such as equity, efficiency, welfare and liberty. The second explores problems, such as symbols, causes, numbers and decisions. The third examines solutions, such as inducements, rules, facts and rights. The subject will explore these concepts in the context of a framework for sound thinking about policy success and failure (e.g. good politics but bad policy) and the wide terrain between these two extremes in terms of process, programs and politics.

EV5968: 03. Tools for Resource Assessment – Ridge to Reef 2020, Semester 2

The Tools for Resource Assessment unit will cover the theory and use of the resources assessment tools introduced in the R2R unit in the Postgraduate Certificate in considerably more detail, as well as introducing a variety of additional, specialised resource assessment tools. This unit has a deeper quantitative focus than the R2R Postgraduate Certificate unit, and will cover methods for the design, implementation and analysis of baseline assessments and monitoring surveys in marine and terrestrial ecosystems, GIS, remote sensing, habitat mapping, water quality surveys, and connectivity mapping. In addition, emphasis will be placed on linking resource assessment to monitoring and evaluation as intrinsically linked components. The potential and viability of using international tools and frameworks to handling local data streams and addressing locally relevant assessment needs will be assessed, and an understanding of how to make appropriate decisions about the appropriateness of particular tools will be developed

EV5967: 03. Policy Development & Strategic Planning R2R 2021, Semester 1

Policy Development & Strategic Planning focuses on developing a working knowledge of the concepts and processes of environmental and regional planning and design. Human perceptions of environments, community participation and the process of designing/planning for an acceptable balance between human use and physical environment are part of this focus. The unit will cover policy formulation, policy analysis, policy implementation, policy evaluation, the formulation of strategic plans, and the roles of different stakeholder groups. Policy formulation will be covered in its four fundamental phases - appraisal, dialogue, formulation and consolidation - while consideration of strategic plan formulation will cover topics from stakeholder consultations to identification of key issues, gaps, opportunities and medium- and long-term outputs. Critical thinking and high-level independent judgement in undertaking various components of the planning process (e.g. planning objectives, environmental assessments, community involvement, report writing) will be emphasised, as will the ability to critically review, analyse and evaluate planning documents and to synthesise and report on them effectively to a variety of audiences.

EV5969: 03. Protected Area Management – Ridge to Reef 2021, Semester 1

This subject is designed to introduce students to key theoretical and applied foundations of Protected Area Governance and Management. Students will be introduced to the history and concept of protected areas and will learn about the socio-economic and ecological dimensions that influence the context of protected areas. The subject will introduce key elements of governance and management of protected areas, including current planning and management tools such as monitoring, conservation planning, reserve design, and mechanisms for generating social and financial support for protected areas. The subject will emphasise international dimensions of protected areas including global networks and governance, roles of indigenous people and local communities, and challenges for protected areas in developing countries. Through participating in this subject, students will have the opportunity to engage in an interactive, varied and interdisciplinary learning experience through lectures, tutorials and discussions with a variety of researchers active in the field of Protected Area Management

Future Opportunities and Directions

The current Ridge to Reef teaching program has been successful when judged either by student successes or by the large number of requests for additional students to join the program. However, moving from the Graduate Certificate to the Graduate Diploma provides the opportunity to reassess the details of the program to respond to changing needs, for instance in response to changed training needs to accommodate recommendations to mainstream ecosystem goods and services. A number of models are possible. From the JCU teaching point of view some change in the details of what is delivered is possible, as long as this aligns with program needs, and as long as the integrity of the overall program isn't affected. On the other hand, it would be possible to deliver additional complimentary modules, for instance as hands-on in-field activities that mixed teaching and learning with the delivery of actual Ridge to Reef activities.

In line with the many request for additional students (both from within and outside the Ridge to Reef project) to join the Ridge to Reef subjects, JCU is exploring options to fill this need, and is moving to develop a set of similar but extended set of offering for delivery into the region in the near future.