

IRU Scholars in Asia: enhancing mobility collaboration across university networks

Daniel Mather, Flinders University

Background

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a network of 6 research intensive universities across the breadth of Australia with strong historical research linkages and interest in the Asia Pacific region.

The IRU members represent a diverse range of student mobility, from **large programs of 1000+ students per calendar year** through small cohort of up to **50 students**.

The IRU Scholars in Asia is a demonstration of the IRU's leadership and engagement within the Asian region through increasing participation in student mobility, innovative use of short term programming to lead to longer semester exchanges, and good practice in collaboration across Australian universities to grow student mobility.



6 research
intensive
universities

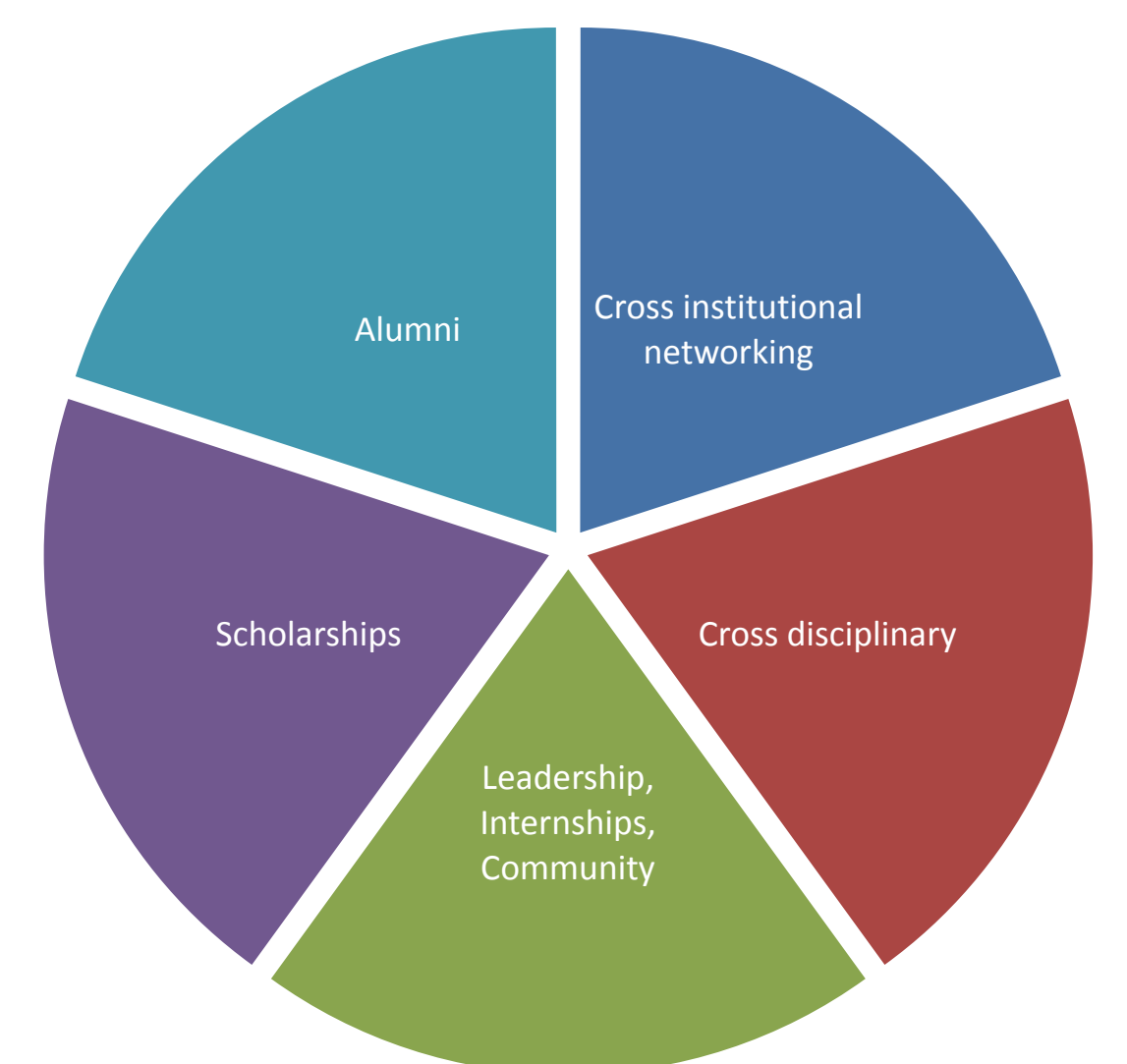
3793 mobility
students
in 2013

Further information and acknowledgments

For more information about the IRU Scholars in Asia please visit the Innovative Research Universities website: www.iru.edu.au or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/iruscholarsinasia

Project Scope

The IRU Scholars in Asia pilot was developed with the aim of providing **unique and innovative mobility opportunities** that increase experiences to Asia. All options would share the following characteristics:



What happened

Using the combined resources of the IRU network, **4 programs** were identified as options for the pilot to be run commencing in **August 2014** and continuing over the **December 2014 to February 2015** period. Each university proposed to contribute 2 students across each of the 4 pilot programs and to provide a small **scholarship**.

In addition to the funding provided by each home university, an IRU consortium application for the 2015/16 round of the New Colombo Plan Mobility program was successful.

Leadership Program	Internship/Practical Placement	Short Term Faculty Led
Cambodia, August 2014	India, January-February 2015 China, January-February 2015	Vietnam, November-December 2014



Collaboration Success and Challenges

- 2015 NCP Mobility funding awarded for consortium application
- Increased collaboration and understanding of challenges facing regionally disparate universities
- Awarding academic credit and enrolment
- Differentiating IRU Scholars in Asia from other program options

Future progress

- 2nd round run over November 2015 to February 2016 period with reduced number of program options;
- 2016 NCP Mobility funding awarded for 2 consortium applications