

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



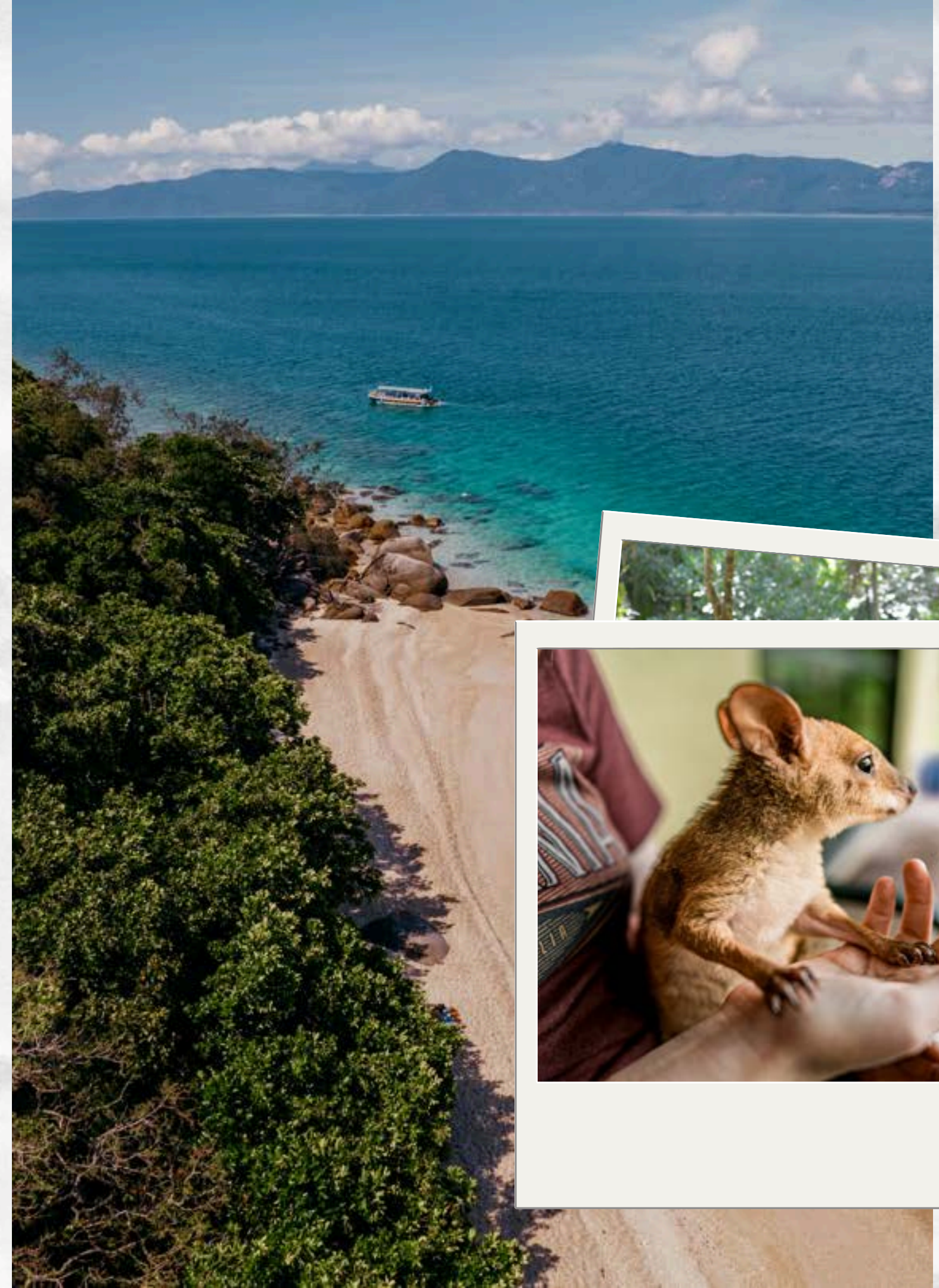
AUSTRALIA

A GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR YOUR
SFS PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS
DEPARTMENT

AGENDA

- INFORMATION ABOUT AUSTRALIA
- LIFE ON PROGRAM
- PACKING
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- TRAVEL & NEXT STEPS
- CONTACT US





AUSTRALIA

LOCAL CULTURE

LANGUAGE

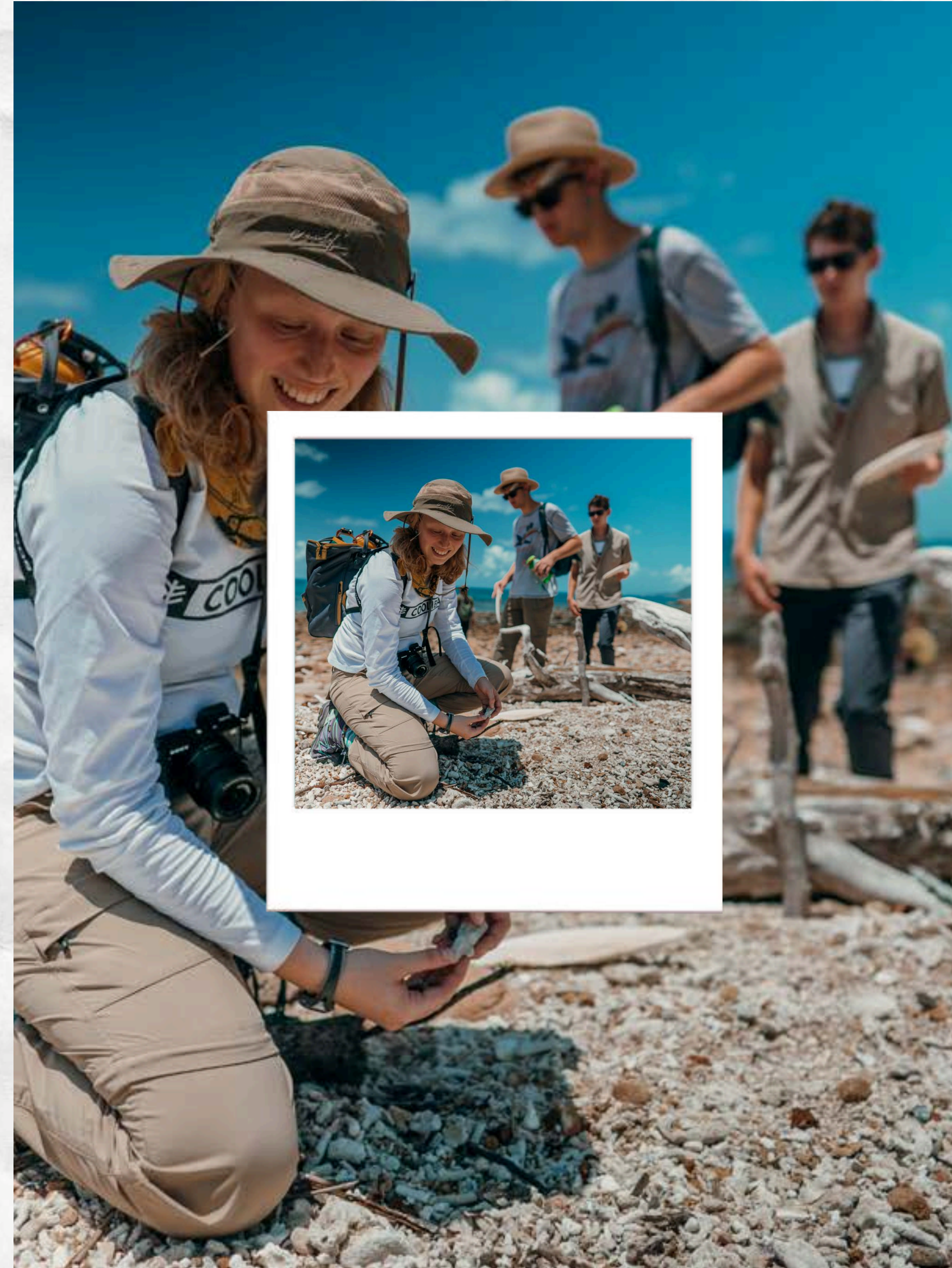
English is the official language. 200 + other languages spoken by immigrants and aboriginals

RELIGION

44% Christian | 39% No religion | 10% Other religions

LGBTQIA+

Same-sex relationships legal
Small pockets of conservative communities



AN OPEN MIND IS KEY

- You chose to study abroad and embrace a new culture, both for its positives and negatives.
- You may feel frustration, but it is important to keep a positive mindset.
- You are not here to judge or change, but rather to learn and experience.





LIFE ON PROGRAM

HOUSING, SCHEDULE & FOOD

FIELD STATION

CAMPUS

- The center is secluded. The nearest town is Yungaburra (pop. ~1,300), a 20-minute drive away.
- Cairns (pop. ~150,000) is a 90 minutes drive.

HOUSING

- Four student cabins, 8 students per cabin (twin beds). Shared bathrooms short walk away with warm water. Shared washers and clotheslines.
- NO WIFI IN CABINS.

AMENITIES + MORE

- Student lounge with TV and games. Very basic gym equipment, volleyball court, and 1 mile trail for running.

COMMUNITY LIVING

- Community living requires compromise and teamwork. You will work, eat, and relax together; personal time is extremely limited. Chore rotations will be assigned once on program.

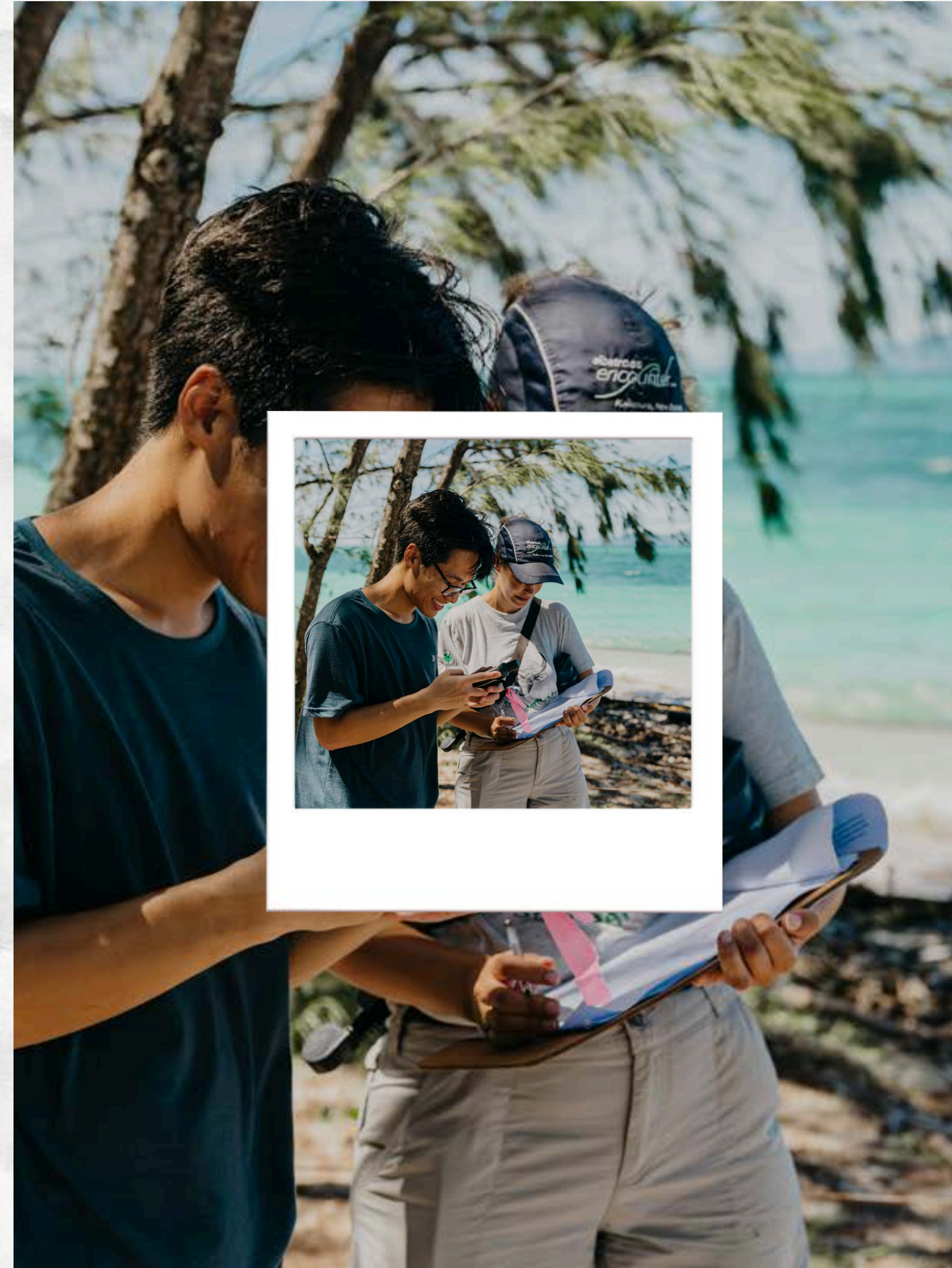
THE CENTER FOR RAINFOREST STUDIES



CLASSROOM STANDARD

- Not an "easy A"
- Our coursework and research impact the community
- Grades must be earned

Schedule is high-intensity. Manage your time efficiently and use your days off to recharge. Use the utmost level of respect in your interactions with staff.



DAY IN THE LIFE



- Days are highly structured
- Typically, 7am - 8pm
- Some days are 100% in the field, while others are 100% classroom time
- Expect over half of your program time to be spent covering classroom-based theory
- All activities are mandatory- including group meals!
- We work around our partners, weather, and other circumstances, so you should expect the schedule to always be changing. It's important to have flexibility and a positive mindset!

PROGRAM POLICIES



Dry Campus



No smoking on campus (no e-cig)



No non-SFS guests without staff approval



Sign out and buddy system



No cannabis products (*)

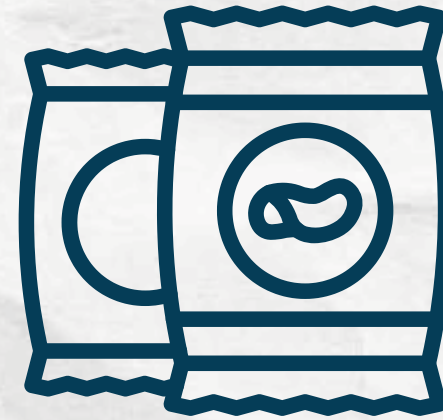


(*) This includes medical marijuana and some types of CBD oil - contact Student Life before bringing any CBD product.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



MEALS



SNACKS



FRESH WATER

Breakfast Example: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, eggs, and toast.

Lunch Example: Sandwiches (peanut butter & jelly, cold cuts, hummus).

Dinner Example: Typical western style meals cooked by the chef.

SFS can support most dietary needs, but the variety of food will be extremely limited based on local availability and cost.

A baby lemur with dark fur and a lighter face is perched on a thick, light-colored tree branch. The lemur is looking directly at the camera with large, dark eyes. The background is a dense, out-of-focus green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

PACKING

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING



CURRENCY

- Australian Dollar (AUD)
- Cash and debit/credit cards
- ATM access about once a week
- Notify your bank
- Bring extra \$ if you plan to snorkel



CLIMATE

- DRY SEASON | May–October
62–85°F (can drop to 50°F)
Still very wet! It's a rainforest.
- WET SEASON | November–
April 70–88°F

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

Please do read your **field guide** for an itemized look!



CLOTHING

**TOILETRIES +
MEDICATION**



**FIELD
GEAR**



ROOM NECESSITIES

FOR CLASSROOM



PACKING CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Long pants and closed-toes shoes required every night.

Rubber boots required for all trail work. They can be borrowed or bought on program.

TECHNOLOGY

Laptop with USB port
MS Office (or equivalent).

Electronics Protection
Voltage is 230 (need converter). Plug type I (need adaptor).

Unreliable Internet
Download podcasts, music, movies, + more.

LUGGAGE

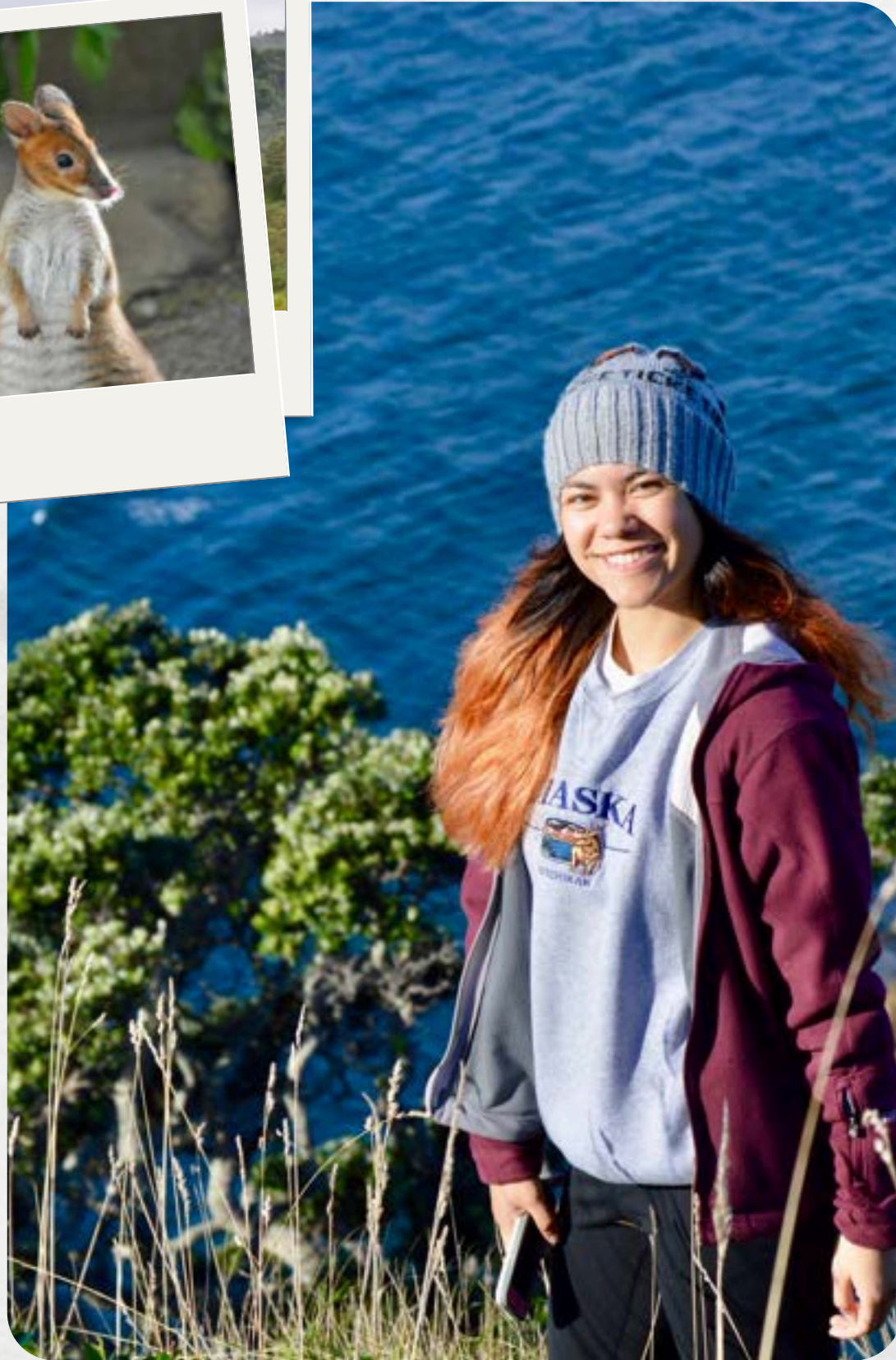
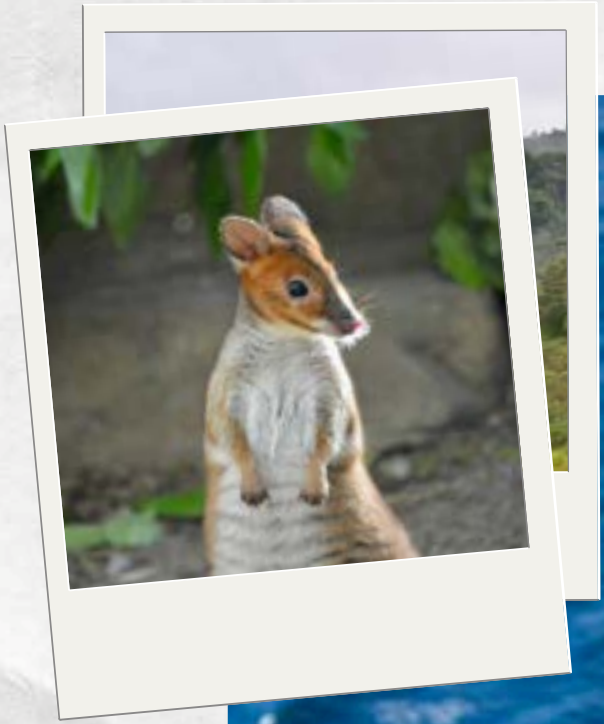
SFS has no luggage limitations, although your airline(s) might!

You will be responsible for transporting your own luggage.

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a large, healthy coral reef. The reef is composed of various types of coral, including branching and table corals, in shades of brown, tan, and white. Numerous small, bright blue tangs are swimming around the coral, adding a sense of life and movement to the scene. The water is a clear, deep blue, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MEDICAL CARE & MEDICAL REVIEW



ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

- ✓ Sunburn, dehydration, etc.
- ✓ Drowning, Motion/Seasickness*
- ✓ Snakes, crocodiles, cassowaries, etc.
- ✓ Mosquitoes, ticks, mites, leaches, spiders
- ✓ Infections

(*) Strong current/tides, etc. Some sessions include open-ocean swimming/snorkeling (0–2× per session). Swim assessment required to go without a lifejacket.

MEDICAL CARE IN COUNTRY

BASIC MEDICAL

Center is 30 minutes
away from hospital in
Atherton

ADVANCED MEDICAL

Center is 1.5 hours
from major hospital
in Cairns

ROUTINE VISITS

Routine medical
visits are not
feasible while on
program.

MENTAL HEALTH

Telehealth
appointments with
mental health
providers may be
difficult to schedule
but can typically be
accommodated.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES & OUTBREAKS

SFS follows CDC and host-country health guidelines. Entry and pre-departure health requirements vary by country and may change based on current outbreaks. Students should review current travel and health guidance before departure, and SFS will notify students of any major updates.

Students who test positive for, or develop symptoms of, communicable illnesses may need to isolate. Close contacts may be asked to test or monitor for symptoms. Because supplies may be limited locally, students are encouraged to bring rapid tests and high-quality masks.

Students are responsible for any medical or isolation-related costs incurred abroad and should confirm, before traveling, that their international health insurance covers communicable diseases.



MEDICAL REVIEW



Complete your medical paperwork within 6 months of departure & before the due date



Schedule medical appointments in advance. SFS recommends consulting with a travel clinic in addition to your primary care physician



No student is permitted to participate on an SFS program until medical review has been completed



Obtain prescription medication prior to your departure



A photograph of several young green seedlings with thin stems and small leaves growing in black plastic trays. The background is a blurred greenhouse structure with translucent panels. The text 'NEXT STEPS' is overlaid in large white letters.

NEXT STEPS

VISAS, FLIGHTS, & PAPERWORK

VISAS AND FLIGHTS

Travel Instructions sent at **least 2 months** prior to departure on buying your flights.

Visa requirements available upon acceptance on your Student Portal.

Airport Letter sent 1-2 weeks prior to departure with arrival instructions, what you need to enter/carry with you, current entry requirements, and emergency contacts.

AT THE AIRPORT

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a blue and white plaid shirt, is standing in a forest. He is holding a roll of red tape and appears to be marking a tree trunk. The background is filled with green foliage and tree trunks.

CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION

This will be at your first airport in Australia (typically Sydney). Have your passport and visa documents ready!

LUGGAGE

Collect your luggage and take the free shuttle to the domestic terminal to re-check.

FINDING SFS

In Cairns, find the designated meeting spot and look for SFS signs!

WAITING FOR OTHERS

You may need to wait for the rest of your cohort to arrive before heading to the center.

NEXT STEPS

TRAVEL

- Apply for or renew your passport-must be valid for length of stay in Australia
- Apply for your eVisa
- Book your flight

SET EXPECTATIONS

- Review the SFS field guide, financial planner, syllabus, and policies
- Talk with your family and friends about a realistic communication plan while you're in the field

MEDICAL

- Schedule all medical appointments
- Make a plan with specialists and/or mental health providers (if needed)
- Obtain prescription medication for the entirety of your program (if needed)
- See travel clinic (if desired)
- Schedule vaccinations (if needed)

FINANCES

- Pay for your program
- Apply for financial aid (if desired)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS



@THESFS
@THESFS_AUSTRALIA

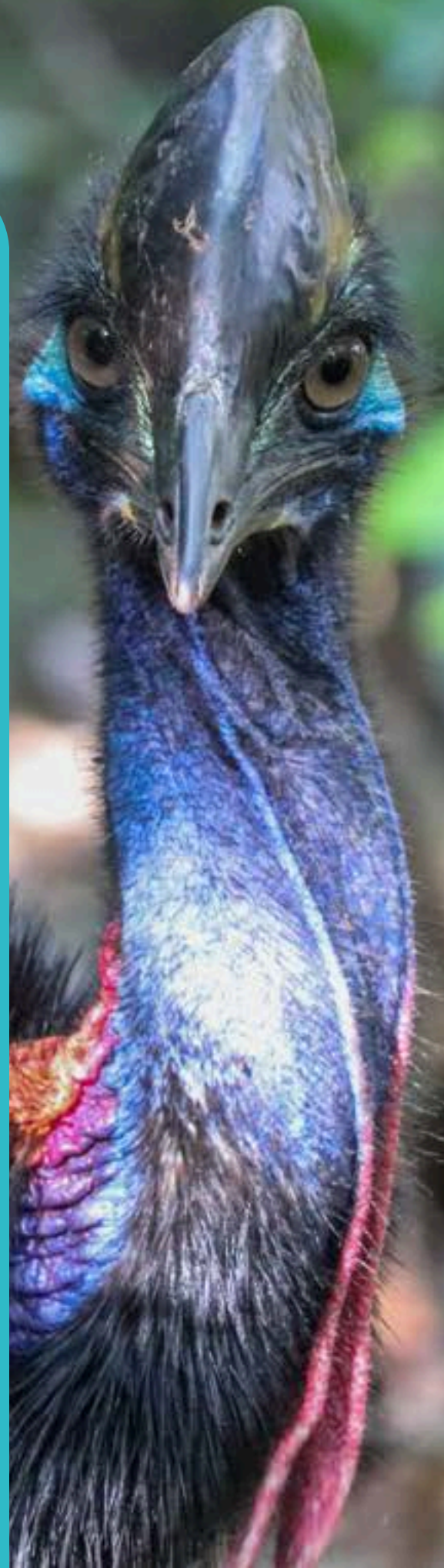


THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

Tag us in your
posts @thesfs!





QUESTIONS?

Here is how you can get in touch:

MEDICAL + SAFETY

studentlife@fieldstudies.org

BILLING + FINANCIAL AID

billing@fieldstudies.org

ACADEMICS

academics@fieldstudies.org

GENERAL QUESTIONS

admissions@fieldstudies.org