

## CAMPUS

## UPEI offers credit for course in Bahamas

Stacey Murray  
Advertising Manager

Fifteen students will have the opportunity to study marine organisms in the Bahamas this summer, the University of Prince Edward Island announced Feb. 15.

During two weeks of study in July, students will collect samples of sponges and corals and examine their microbes and identify any natural products that could be used for further research, said Syndor Withers, one of the professors of the course.

"The real goal is to expose students to what real field work is."

Christian Lacroix, the dean of science at UPEI, said there are many benefits for those taking the course.

"It will definitely benefit [students] in terms of getting a feel for what they'll find in the sea."

The course is being taught by Russel Kerr, a Canada Research Chair in Marine Natural Products, as well as Withers, a postdoctoral fellow.

Lacroix said the idea was the brainchild of Kerr and they have been planning and preparing for the course since his arrival at UPEI last September.



*UPEI students can explore local aquatic life with the new Bahamas Exchange Program*

The university was given the opportunity largely due to Jerry Roberts, who founded Three Beaches Marine Laboratory on Great Abaco Island.

UPEI will equip the space in exchange for use of the facilities. Withers wasn't sure of the university's cost for the project at this point.

Along with the location of the course, there are also some other notable differences between this course and a regular

one, Withers said.

Whereas in a normal classroom setting teachers know the pre-determined answers, this trip will be about researching without having the answers, he said.

While most of the students' time will be taken up by the fieldwork, they will have a chance to take in some Caribbean culture, but it won't be what people generally see when they visit the Bahamas' numerous resorts.

In reality, the Bahamas is a very poor country and students will be exposed to that, Withers said.

"It's usually a very eye-opening experience."

The course will cost \$3,500, which includes all expenses once they arrive. Flight arrangements will cost extra and are the responsibility of the student. On the Air Canada website, flights during July start at roughly \$400 each way.

The course is being offered to UPEI students as well as students from other universities, said Withers. It is also being offered to undergraduate and graduate students with the hope they will get a good mixture of students from all backgrounds.

They definitely want UPEI students to be represented, he said.

"It's a very specialty-type course so opening it up to all students will ensure we get the number we're looking for," said Lacroix.

There is no deadline for application as of yet, and no students have been chosen for the course, but more information can be found at [www.upei.ca/~science/html/sea.html](http://www.upei.ca/~science/html/sea.html) or by emailing Kerr and Withers at [seamedicines@upei.ca](mailto:seamedicines@upei.ca)

## UPEI students see new culture through exchange program

Christy Marsters  
Marsters is a journalism student at Holland College

Some students looking to combine a love of travel and a desire for education within the next few years attended a student exchange information session at UPEI on Jan. 24.

Yanet Roncal, a UPEI psychology student, is thinking about going to Sweden next year though a cooperative exchange program offered by UPEI.

Being an exchange student would be good because multi-cultural things are enjoyable, she said.

"When I was little, my parents were going to move [to Sweden] but they didn't. Now I really want to go."

UPEI has collaborated with other post-

secondary institutions from Sweden, Australia, the United States and most recently, Egypt, to give students an opportunity to study in a different country while still paying UPEI tuition rates.

For student who can do a good job of representing UPEI academically and personally, it's an excellent chance to explore different cultures, said Ryan Woolfrey, who conducted the information session.

"It allows for students to get out there."

Kathleen McNeill, a UPEI psychology student, said the chance to meet people from other countries would be worth the cost and she would apply for an exchange program in Australia twice if the first attempt failed.

"It would be a really great experience

for anyone to do it."

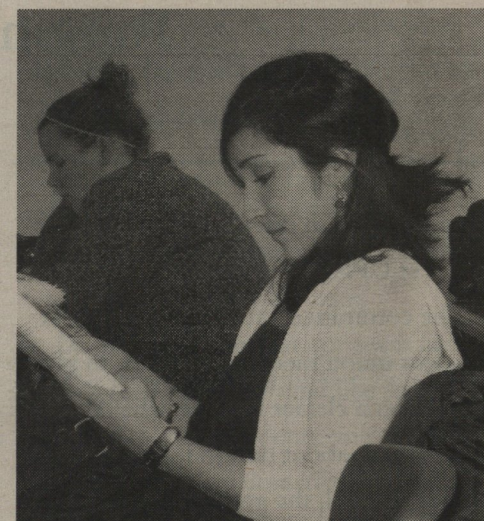
UPEI counsellor James Reddin agreed with McNeill.

Every student returning to UPEI from the exchange program comes back having a totally different experience, he said.

"They represent the best the school has to offer."

Those who want to participate in the exchange program next year must complete five courses in the semester prior to the exchange with a minimum average of 70 per cent, have recommended extracurricular and volunteer experience, be financially prepared, write an essay, have two references and fill out an application by Feb. 9.

These students will then be interviewed and considered for next year.



Yanet Roncal, a first-year psychology student at UPEI, is reading up on the student exchanges information booklet at an information session on Jan. 25. She is thinking about studying in Sweden through the UPEI student exchange program next year.