



MARINE CONSERVATION STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM

Fiji

3rd – 10th Oct 2026

Information for New Zealand and Australian Students

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Hello, Bula

Welcome to Pacific Guardian's - Leaders Academy! We are super excited that you are joining us in **March** for our **Marine Conservation Student Leaders Program (MCSLP)** in **Fiji**. This document outlines all the important information you need to know about the course. We hope this provides you with a good overview of what to expect and prepare for but if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@flacademy.com, or 0800 388 873 (NZ), or 1800 387 500 (AUS).

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Vision - To strengthen the Pacific region – by developing effective junior leaders and strong future networks. Through facilitating a community of connection, culture, experiential development, adventure, and leading by example, while developing capacity.

Our Marine Leaders Program is a week-long course that sees young people from across New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands come together to develop their personal and team leadership skills through fun, unique, hands-on activities. With the aim of participants prepared to take real action on protecting the marine environment.

The course kicks off on **Saturday 3rd October 2026**, with all students flying to **Nadi, Fiji**. You will meet the local **Fiji** based students also attending the course once you arrive. While there you will be in smaller groups (syndicates) getting around the islands by van with your staff member in support. The course will take place over eight days, where you'll complete a range of activities designed to develop your leadership skills; such as communication, collaboration and strategic thinking. Activities will focus on the marine environment, conservation, community, culture, and connection. There will be group work and discussions, hands-on practical exercises, with each student having the chance to lead their syndicate throughout the week.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Led by our Course Manager, the staff team is made up of leadership instructors and youth mentors, and marine biologists. All instructors are experts at delivering our training in a way that is safe, interactive, engaging and meaningful for our students. With combined experience of having delivered our programs to over 500 young leaders, including those with limited travel experience. You're in safe hands! They are also police vetted / Blue Card and have current first-aid qualifications. You can find out more about our team at <https://flacademy.com/our-team/>. You can email us directly at admin@flacademy.com.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The course runs from **Saturday 03rd – Saturday 10th Oct 2026**, including travel.

Fiji is 2 hours ahead of AEST Australia time and 1 hour behind New Zealand, depending on daylight savings. Please note travel dates and times will state which country's time zone this is in. Our team will work with each student to help organise your connections to international flights, and meeting in Fiji.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Sat 3 rd Oct	Sun 4 th Oct	Mon 5 th Oct	Tues 6 th Oct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to your intl airport. • Fly to Nadi, Fiji. • Meet other students. • Meet the staff • Ferry to Barefoot Kuata Is. • Settle in to your accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course info briefing • Ice breakers • Leadership sessions • Team building activities • Form your syndicate • Cultural welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership session • Goal setting • Marine science session • Crown of Thorns removal • Relax • Student leader presentations • Culture practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership session • Marine science session • Coral planting and nursery • Relax • Student leader presentations • Culture practice

Wed 7 th Oct	Thur 8 th Oct	Fri 9 th Oct	Sat 10 th Oct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership session • Marine science session • Bull Shark dive and survey • Relax • Student leader presentations • Culture practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership session • Community service project • School visit • Cultural village welcome • Traditional lovo dinner • Sevusevu - kava 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation morning tea • Beach fun day • Marine leadership projects • Pack up • Ferry to Nadi marina • Overnight Nadi hotel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farewell local students • Fly to NZ/Aus • Onward travel home

FLIGHTS to Fiji

All students will need to book and pay **(we strongly recommend you book flexi flights)** for your own travel to/from **Nadi International Airport, Fiji**, and let us know your travel arrangements. **Our staff will meet you at the Nadi airport on arrival.**

We require all students to arrive in Nadi by or before 12pm on Saturday 3rd October.

Some suggested flights, Sat 3rd Oct, below:

- Depart Auckland, 8:00am, Fiji Airways (FJ412). Arrive Nadi, 10:10am.
- Depart Sydney, 6:00am, Fiji Airways (FJ914). Arrive Nadi, 11:00am.

Most students will be on the same international flight, and can identify themselves by wearing our Pacific Guardians t-shirt, and start getting to know each other.

*We strongly recommend booking flexi fares if you are flying domestically which will cover most costs to change flights if needed. Flight changes and delays are often out of our control but are a very common risk (due to weather etc) with travel and one we encounter regularly. **We will not be liable for any travel disruptions, but your travel insurance will cover this. We will of course support all students to reschedule if anything happens.***

A detailed Travel-Plan will be created with all students' confirmed domestic and international travel times for our staff to monitor and we will assist your family if alternative arrangements must be made due to delays or cancellations. Additionally, most airports have hotel options for students needing/wanting to travel a day early. The typical cost of the accommodation is NZD\$80.

- Send travel plans to admin@flacademy.com
 - Flight itinerary (include flight number and times of both directions)?

FLIGHTS home

We require all students to have homeward flights from Nadi before 12pm on Saturday 10th October.

- Send travel plans to admin@flacademy.com
 - Flight itinerary (include flight number and times of both directions)?

Baggage

Your ticket allows one piece of checked in baggage, with a weight of usually **up to 30kg**. Please note: If you are traveling on a domestic flight prior to your international flight, your luggage allowance may be different, so make sure you check your baggage allowance. You are also allowed one piece of cabin baggage, weighing up to 7kg.

TRAVEL / MEDICAL INSURANCE

International travel insurance is compulsory, including cancellation cover. This is not included in your course fees and should be purchased by you as soon as possible. We recommend cancellation cover the course fee amount, and your flights. Please send us a copy of your insurance details, and policy number **two months before the course**.

Payment Details

Paying your course fee – unless you've already paid in full.

A deposit is required to secure your space on the programme and is non-refundable after 14 days. Remaining fee payment options:

- A. **2 installments.** First installment due one month after booking. Second installment due 8 weeks prior to course.
- B. **Monthly installments.** Amount is calculated based on the number of months remaining until the course.

Please ensure that your invoices are paid on time or agreed payment plans are adhered to.

NZ Students fee: NZD\$5000	Aus Students fee: AUD\$4600
Deposit: NZD\$500.	Deposit: NZD\$500.

International flights and travel insurance not included.

For fundraising ideas head to our [fundraising page](#).

Refunds, participant cancellations & departures policy

Your remaining course fee, not your deposit, is refundable up to twelve weeks before your course start date.

If you withdraw within twelve weeks of your course departing date, your full course fee is not refundable, but is transferable. If a medical reason prevents you from joining the course, you will need to claim the course fees back through your travel insurance. Cancellations must be received in writing by email.

If you depart for any reason during the programme, including behaviour, motivation barriers, injury or illness incurred on course, you will not receive a refund. You must contact your travel insurance provider for any claims.

Future Leaders cancellation policy, see full terms & conditions [here](#).

If something major happens outside our control e.g; natural disaster, international flight departure delays longer than two days, or any other significant operational issue preventing the safe and effective delivery of a programme, we might have to cancel the trip.

Future Leaders reserves the right to amend dates or make changes to courses, if necessary.

This could be due to not meeting the minimum number of students enrolled, or other operational reasons. Paying your deposit is your agreement to our T&Cs. **You should book flexible, changeable, and refundable flights in case we have to make any of the above changes.**

STUDENT AND PARENT/CAREGIVER DETAILS & CONSENT

If you are under 18 years of age at the time of applying for your course, we are required to obtain parental consent for you to travel with us and attend this program. **Your parent or caregiver will need to provide their consent on the Online Consent Form, which you'll find as a link in your confirmation email once your deposit has been paid.** Please complete and submit the online form with 7 days of receipt.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in the main city of **Nadi, Fiji** for transit, **and Barefoot Kuata Island, Yasawa's**. Barefoot Kuata will be dorm style in hard floored safari tents.

We recommend packing ear plugs and an eye mask if you are a light sleeper, but the sound of the wave is likely to lull you to sleep each night!

Male and female accommodation will be separated.

MEALS

All main meals and snacks will be provided during the course. Meals will include a balanced range of nutritious foods and beverages. Staff and students might share in the meal preparation during the program if necessary.

Please be aware that menus on this program will be reflective of the cultural cuisines and may differ to what you may be used to at home. We will endeavour to meet all dietary needs and restrictions however this will be within the resources available to us there.

Dietary requirements

Ensure you include any special dietary requirements on the Student Information and Consent Form. We might not be able to cater for all dietary needs, we will discuss case-by-case with you.

Medical Emergencies

Minor medical situations will be treated by our staff members, who are all first aid trained, and have our own comprehensive first aid kits. If a more serious medical event occurs students will be taken to **Nadi Hospital**, which has an emergency department.

What To Bring – Packing List

Below is a list of the basic clothing and equipment you will need to bring with you. This list may be updated and we will be in touch again closer to the time if there is anything to add to this:

- Comfortable active wear (shorts x3, T-shirts x3) *You will be given a FLA T-shirt to wear, which you will wear for most activities.*
- Comfortable running shoes, jandals/flip flops/sandals, dress shoes (optional), reef shoes.
- Semi formal outfit for final celebration dinner – ie, Dress shirt/blouse, dress pants/skirt
- Set of summer style evening wear (nice shorts, polo/casual shirt, dress)
- Rain jacket (lightweight is okay)
- Togs/bathers
- Sunhat
- 2x Towels
- Underwear
- Toiletries
 - Including sanitary products, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste etc
- Any medication you may need
 - Please ensure you list this in the detailed medical action plan as described in the Student Information & Consent form.
 - Light pain relief such as panadol or ibuprofen if you are prone to headaches etc. *NB: FLA will have first aid kits also*
- Camera/phone
- Sunscreen (plenty of it!), Insect repellent, after sun.
- Drink bottle (reusable drink bottle to keep hydrated)
- Container to put packed lunches in.
- Ear plugs and an eye mask for optimal undisturbed sleep.
- Spending money for souvenirs, extra ice creams, optional tourist activities.

All the main travel, accommodation and course costs including your meals and snacks each day are covered by your course fee. Find the latest exchange rate online.

Communications

Communication closer to the course date and during the course will be made through a dedicated WhatsApp group. If you don't have the WhatsApp app, please install it to your device. You will receive an invite to join the group once this has been set up.

All our staff will have a mobile phone with internet access, as well as a Data Pack.

Most mobile phone providers from NZ/Aus will allow you to use your phone overseas (roaming) for a reasonable price. Please check with your phone provider before travelling, for accurate roaming information. Students may also like to purchase their own local SIM card.

NOTE: Access to using all mobile phones will be restricted at certain times, including during meal times. Wifi is available at the accommodation.

Social Media

FACEBOOK:

Make sure you are following us on Facebook to keep up to date with all things Future Leaders Academy! <https://www.facebook.com/FutureLeadersPSL>

INSTAGRAM:

Make sure you also check us out on Instagram and share your handles on your Information & Consent form so we can tag you. <https://www.instagram.com/pacificguardians.hq/>

STUDENT PROFILES: As part of sharing our vision with the world, we like to highlight and celebrate the students who join our programmes and share this on our social media channels. You will be sent a separate email to see whether you'd like to be featured as one of our Student Profiles.

Questions / Information Session:

Before our programme start date we will host a Q&A session for all students and families via Zoom. This is an opportunity to ask any last questions before the trip that may have not already been answered. We will also do a walk-through of what to expect during the program week.

YOUR CHECKLIST...

Use this to keep yourself on track (no need to return this to FLA).

1. Complete your **Online Consent Form** within one week of receiving this info pack. ☐
2. **Check your passport is valid** and ready for your international travel. Please note: your passport needs to be valid for six months AFTER our return date. ☐
3. **Download the WHATSAPP app** to your phone in preparation to join our communication group. ☐
3. **Organise your travel** to and from home to **Fiji** as outlined above in this Student Information Pack. ☐
4. **Send to admin@flacademy.com the following information.** ☐
 - Travel Details - details on how you are getting to **Nadi**.
 - Scan or photo of your passport - If this is being renewed then re-confirm your name as per your passport. Please remember to send a copy of your new passport once received.
4. **Ensure your fees are paid on time** ☐

If paying by two invoiced instalments, payment is required by the due date on the invoice. Take note of these dates.

If payment plan is in place, set up direct debit according to agreed payment plan
5. Start getting excited!!! ☐

If you require any assistance with this info pack and your checklist, please contact us:

- Email: admin@flacademy.com
- Ph: 0800 388 873 (NZ)
- Ph: 1800 387 500 (AUS)
- WhatsApp Message: +64 27 299 1842