



The Remote and Rural Enterprise (RARE) Program is a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of regional Australia and Southeast Asia. It enables you to get out of the classroom and engage with commercial and social enterprises to solve real-world problems in rural and remote regions.

Entrepreneurship and social enterprise drive economic development and provide new opportunities for remote and rural communities. This is your chance to get out of the classroom and assist a remote and rural enterprise in regional Australia and Southeast Asia.

Local entrepreneurs and community leaders are working with the University of Sydney to address local business and social challenges. For example, an Aboriginal community in remote central Australia is establishing a commercial aquaponics enterprise, a social entrepreneur is exploring economically viable business opportunities at the local waste-management site, and a consortia is scoping the establishment of a remote film studio. We have multiple remote and rural businesses seeking your skills and passion. The program will expose you to the realities of developing a living, growing enterprise, and the opportunity for hands-on professional and personal development.

About the program

The RARE Program supports two-way learning by placing you in a remote or rural community to work directly with an entrepreneur. You will adapt the skills you've learned during your course to make a genuine contribution to a community's development.

We offer RARE projects in several units of study each semester. For more information visit

– sydney.edu.au/business/RARE

You will gain practical skills you can't learn in the classroom, while the community will receive your expertise and assistance in developing a sustainable, innovative enterprise that offers genuine financial and social benefits.

The program consists of a range of projects involving enterprises across remote and rural Australia and Southeast Asia. Each enterprise is community driven and aims to address specific local business and social challenges.



“Meeting new people, wrestling with real-world situations and understanding the aspirations of a developing enterprise were factors that made the RARE project such a wonderful experience and a great source of valuable learning. I would highly recommend the program to future students.”

Aila Whittall
Growing the Burnett Project, 2014

Our projects

The communities involved in the program are located across Australia and Southeast Asia and represent a range of industries. They include Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, commercial and social enterprises.

Our projects aim to deliver practical and accessible recommendations, backed by rigorous academic literature and market-relevant data and information. We emphasise community consultation, reviewing local markets, researching best practice, and adapting business models to suit challenging remote environments and sociocultural differences.

Projects include business plans, feasibility studies, strategic plans, information memorandums, or specific analysis of a particular issue or opportunity relevant to the enterprise.

Upcoming and past projects

Visit sydney.edu.au/business/RARE to view available projects in the upcoming semester as well as completed projects.

Program structure

The RARE Program will provide you with a student placement scholarship and cover all transport and accommodation expenses for up to a week while you assist the remote and rural enterprise onsite. Once you return to Sydney you will liaise with the enterprise via phone/email to complete the project.

Completing a RARE project will earn you credit towards your degree. We offer projects within several units of study each semester at both the postgraduate and undergraduate level (check the website or email the RARE Coordinator before enrolment):

- IBUS 3106
- IBUS 3108
- IBUS 6015
- IBUS 6016
- SUST 5007

Students from the University of Sydney Business School, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, and Faculty of Science are eligible to participate. To apply, you will need to be enrolled in one of the above units of study. During the first week of class you need to submit an application form along with a copy of your academic transcript and resume. Visit sydney.edu.au/business/RARE for further application details.

Participants are selected on the basis of strong academic results, relevant past experience and demonstrated understanding and appreciation for community development and entrepreneurship.

For more information

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