To Whom It May Concern:

Creation Care Study Program (CCSP) is a Christian environmental and social justice study abroad program for university students from North America. Its mission is educating students to be a part of, and agents for, God’s shalom particularly through understanding and caring for creation. In the context of close community living that encourages lifestyle worship, all students attending the South Pacific CCSP participate in three intentionally inter-connected core courses: Ecosystems of the South Pacific, God and Nature, and Sustainable Development (see attached course descriptions). Ecosystems of the South Pacific focuses on the ecological intricacies and interconnectedness of God’s creation, God and Nature provides a biblical basis for environmental stewardship, and Sustainable Development explores the relationships between them both with respect to the welfare of individuals, communities, and nations.

Since God and Nature asks students to develop a theology and philosophy of creation that understands humans as stewards of God’s creation, it is central to CCSP’s mission. During one class week students explore the biblical basis for a Christian faith and worldview that incorporates a strong theological focus on social and environmental justice using biblical exegesis and study of other relevant texts. Course content for the second week varies from semester to semester as different professors share their own particular expertise. Past topics include: environmental philosophy, agriculture and global food distribution, science and faith, global consumer capitalism, and biological theories of love. Presenting a Christian worldview in which caring for creation and the disadvantaged are central to human’s role in Christ’s reconciliation is the ultimate goal of the course.

CCSP’s experiential approach to learning allows students to connect classroom and theological theory from courses with just lifestyles in various ways. Students participate in several local ecosystem-monitoring activities in their ecology course. A major component of the Sustainable Development course is the Integrated Seminar Project in which students conduct research projects synthesizing ideas from all three courses. Previous projects considered climate change, alternative fuels, how healthcare policies in the U.S. and New Zealand affect the economically disadvantaged, and homelessness in New Zealand. Students then give seminar presentations to invited members of the local community.

Besides course-related work, CCSP staff intentionally arrange and offer extracurricular activities that reinforce classroom learning. On campus, students and staff compost, recycle, reduce energy use, and employ other practices for sustainably conducting everyday activities. Although semesters vary depending on availability and scheduling, other available activities include helping out in local ecosystem restoration work, working on the organic farm where our produce is grown, and working with a local children’s home.

Through all these activities, CCSP strives to engage students in holistic learning experiences so that experiential knowledge might transform the words of academic theory into the practice of compassionate, justice-seeking lifestyles. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information or have additional questions.

Kind regards,

Aaron Routhe, Program Director
South Pacific Creation Care Study Program
## Compulsory core courses for all CCSP students in the South Pacific:

- **GOD AND NATURE**  
  4 CREDIT HRS, 300 LEVEL COURSE  
  Central to the mission of CCSP, this course helps students develop a theology of creation that understands humans as Biblical stewards of the earth. Through the study of scripture, and other relevant texts, students explore the theology of creation, biblical stewardship, questions of faith and science, and Christian responses to current environmental problems.

- **INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
  4 CREDIT HRS, 300 LEVEL COURSE  
  This course explores how knowledge of ecological systems, globalization, political economy, and the biblical worldview come together in the pursuit of development that is community-minded, just, and ecologically sustainable. Through readings, lectures and fieldtrips, students study complex issues in sustainable development such as the nexus of poverty, the environment, and justice, and the many practical challenges associated with sustainable community development.

- **ECOSYSTEMS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC**  
  4 CREDIT HRS, 300 LEVEL COURSE  
  In this field-based course, students explore with experts, forest and stream ecosystems in New Zealand, and near-shore marine environments - coral reef, mangrove, and sea grass - in Samoa. In addition to studying these various ecosystems, this class is also designed to help students scientifically apprehend a broad understanding of global environmental issues.

### Elective courses in the South Pacific (students may choose one):

- **CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**  
  3 CREDIT HRS, 300 LEVEL COURSE  
  As an introduction to cultural anthropology the primary objective of this course is to provide a general overview of its historical development, principle assumptions and theories, research methods, areas of study (including, language, religion, kinship, social organization, politics, and economic systems), and its applied uses. Issues important to Christians studying cultural anthropology will be examined and evaluated, including cultural relativism and culture change. Finally, emphasis in the applied area of anthropology is given to contemporary human problems such as world hunger and the environmental crisis.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE**  
  3 CREDIT HRS, 300 LEVEL COURSE  
  Is it possible that literature shapes our cultural imagination and the way we imagine our relationship to the earth – sometimes in ways we don’t even realize? How do we describe our understanding of God, our lives together, or our place in God’s Creation to ourselves and others? These questions and others are critically examined by engaging with different literature forms that reflect Scriptural and various cultural perspectives. This course highlights the significance of our worldview in imagining the Earth and how we both acquire and transform our personal worldviews through our interaction with literature. Its fundamental purpose is to consider how the confessional commitments of a Christian imagination should shape our own descriptions of our place in Creation.