

**Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts  
School of Indigenous Knowledge and Public Policy**



# Yolngu Languages and Culture 2015

## Graduate Certificate in Yolngu Studies

### ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is designed to introduce students to the life and languages of Yolngu people in East Arnhem Land. The course concentrates on Yolngu Matha (Yolngu language) forms of Dhuwala, and focuses on the everyday community version of the language. A basic grounding in the sounds of the languages, grammar and basic vocabulary provides the basis to develop conversation ability and the learning of other Yolngu languages. Moiety systems, various aspects of kinship, Yolngu life, creation stories, songs, art and ceremonies and how these relate are also presented. Also the independent studies unit allows students an opportunity to focus on topics of personal interest.

Please visit the following link for more information.  
<http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies/>

### STUDY OPTION

In 2015 Yolngu Studies will be delivered at CDU Casuarina campus for Darwin residents as well as online teaching for people living outside of Darwin regions. Yolngu Studies also deliver Livestream sessions by Yolngu lecturers from the homes across East Arnhem Land.

On-campus teaching will be delivered in the late afternoon (5:00 - 7.00pm) in order to have this course available and flexible for as many students as possible.

The closing date for application into the Graduate Certificate in Yolngu Studies often ends in December. We advise prospective students to enrol well before this date, as it may not be extended.

### **WHY LEARN YOLŬU MATHA?**

There are several reasons to learn YolŬu Matha. Perhaps the most important reason is to help you appreciate the quality, depth and complexity of the YolŬu universe, (a universe vastly different from the Western world) where YolŬu cultures are both ancient and modern. You don't need to be fluent to begin this. As soon as you begin to say and hear the pronunciation of names properly, you will begin to see the connectedness between the names of people, the names of their lands, plants, animals and ancestors. While much of the YolŬu world simply cannot be explained in English, there is much that Balanda (non-YolŬu) can learn from YolŬu, particularly about relating to the land, environment and to each other.

Another reason is to show respect for Australia's First Nations peoples and their ways of life. It is ethnocentric for white Australians to expect to be able to communicate with everyone in English and YolŬu are certainly aware of this.

A third reason is to help you communicate with YolŬu. Many YolŬu have not had the opportunity or need to learn English. You have the opportunity to learn YolŬu Matha.

Learning YolŬu Matha does not require outstanding ability, but it does require a commitment to regular learning, say 30 minutes a day, and regular practice with YolŬu lecturers, friends and families.

### **OTHER DETAILS**

- Enrol online through: <http://www.satac.edu.au>
- The reference materials "YolŬu Languages & Culture – GupapuyŬu: Books and CDs pack" is available through the CDU Bookshop

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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W. <http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies/>