LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Training for the resources sector

Broaden your understanding of one of the most culturally rich and diverse countries in the world

This course is designed for those going to Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the first time and for those already working in PNG who would like a better understanding of language and culture. There will be a particular emphasis on the needs of those working in the resources sector. Skills acquisition in Tok Pisin (Melanesian Pidgin) is a focus of the course but no prior knowledge of the language will be assumed.

The course will be interactive with opportunities to practice what you learn and apply it to your own contexts.

Facilitator: This workshop will be led by Dr Kirsty Gillespie who has worked and conducted research in PNG over the last decade. Dr Gillespie is a fluent speaker of Tok Pisin, a cultural heritage practitioner in the mining sector and the author of Steep Slopes: Music and change in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. She has worked closely with both the Duna people of Hela Province (formerly the Southern Highlands Province) and the Lihir people of New Ireland Province.

3 DAY PROGRAM

An introduction to Tok Pisin, one of the official languages of PNG, including:

- Social language e.g. greetings and leave taking, and introductions
- Directions, food and drink, numbers
- Workplace language e.g. instructions
- An understanding of the structure of the language in order to facilitate continued learning

Key cultural concepts such as:

- gender
- the importance of family/kin
- understandings of the body

Ethnographic information

- film excerpts
- profiles of cultures where resource industries are active
- sources for further information

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST  k.gillespie@uq.edu.au