

# Student Challenge

Want to experience hands-on conservation?

Imagine spending a week in an amazing location with students from all over QLD exploring solutions for a more sustainable relationship with our environment.

The Earthwatch Student Challenge is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a select number of Year 10 - 12 students to experience environmental research firsthand.

- No prior experience is necessary.
- Working with leading scientists, you will be trained in many aspects of scientific field work and gain valuable insights into conservation research.

## About Earthwatch

Earthwatch is a global environmental charity aiming to create a society that lives in balance with nature by empowering people to save the natural world.

Generously funded by

THE **George Alexander** FOUNDATION 

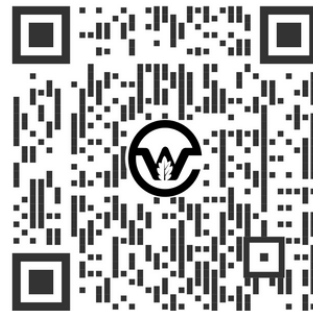
## Eligibility

George Alexander Foundation (GAF) Fellowships are available if you are currently:

- a Year 10, 11 or 12 student
- attending a QLD Government school.
- available June 26 - July 3, 2024

## Apply now!

Use the QR code on the right or copy the link <https://buff.ly/3lCyVQ0> to apply. Be quick! Numbers are strictly limited.



Please note, a Letter of Reference from your teacher or principal is required to apply.

**Applications close**

**Friday March 22nd 2024 at 11:59PM**



Earthwatch Student Challenge Team  
[studentchallenge@earthwatch.org.au](mailto:studentchallenge@earthwatch.org.au)

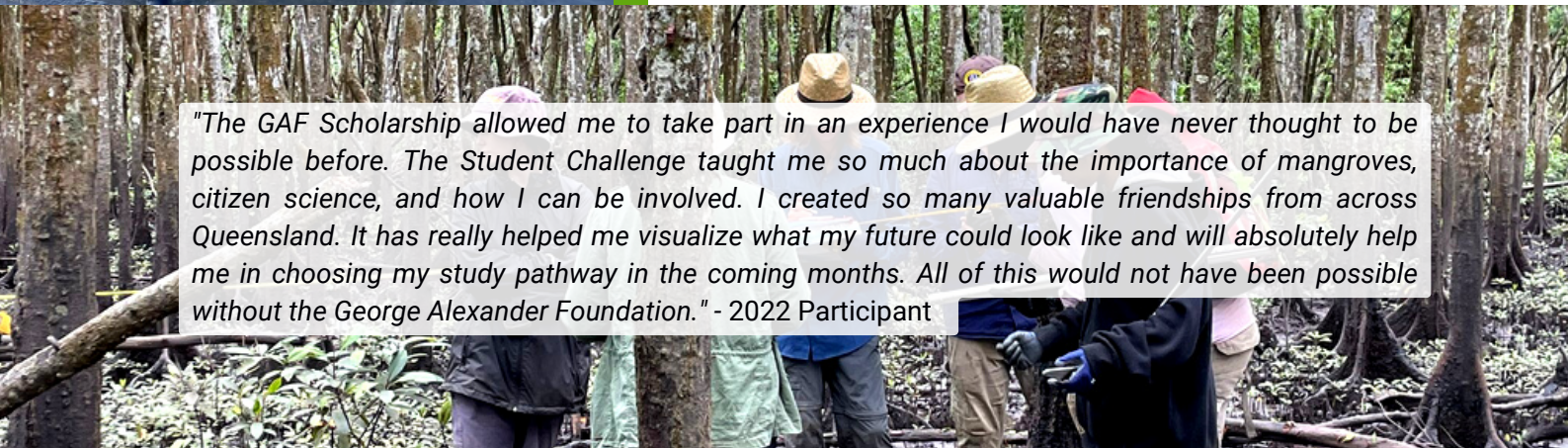


# Protecting Wetlands for the Future



For successful applicants, the Fellowship covers:

- Transport to and from the expedition (including flights and airport transfers where applicable)
- Insurance
- All meals and accommodation
- Field transport and research equipment
- Professional and academic transferrable skills



*"The GAF Scholarship allowed me to take part in an experience I would have never thought to be possible before. The Student Challenge taught me so much about the importance of mangroves, citizen science, and how I can be involved. I created so many valuable friendships from across Queensland. It has really helped me visualize what my future could look like and will absolutely help me in choosing my study pathway in the coming months. All of this would not have been possible without the George Alexander Foundation." - 2022 Participant*

Mangroves are one of the world's most underrated coastal ecosystems. You may not know it, but mangroves provide most of our seafood, help clean the waters of the Great Barrier Reef, protect coasts from storms and erosion, are home to iconic wildlife, and are carbon storage powerhouses that help reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Unfortunately, mangroves are globally threatened by climate change, sea level rise and coastal development.

This is your chance to have some muddy fun and help researchers understand how mangrove forests respond to severe flood events and develop strategies to protect and enhance these coastal habitat heroes into the future.

## Activities may include:

- Estuary shoreline video assessment in boats
- Mangrove forest flood recovery surveys
- Saltmarsh SAVER rapid assessments
- Mangrove crab and fauna assessments

## COVID Vaccination Policy:

For minors (students under the age of 18 years), COVID vaccinations are strongly encouraged and boosters are recommended.

It is not compulsory for students to be vaccinated in order to participate in a Student Challenge expedition. Policy may change.

## Dates

June 26 - July 3, 2024

## Accommodation

Dormitory style with shared rooms and a separate toilet block.

## Location

Mackay, QLD



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**earthwatch**  
AUSTRALIA

*Photo credit (all): Michelle Tripp*