International students tap into our systems

Global approach

BY ASHLEY ARGOON

PAUL Amaateng hopes the Border's water systems will hold the key to solving flood and disease problems in Ghana.

Taking advantage of Charles Sturt University's funding boost for higher degree research, Mr Amaateng wants to take what he's learned home to his country to fix the water problems in the developing area.

"We have flood and we have stagnation of water, which promotes the spread of diseases," he said.

"We know in Ghana that one of the major diseases, malaria, comes mainly through the stagnation of polluted water bodies."

"My main focus is to come out with something that will help us to help our students to promote the development of our cities."

"What I intend to learn is better ways of controlling development so we reduce the encroachment of the water bodies, protecting our water resources while the development is still ongoing."

Mr Amaateng is among 10 international students who have come to CSU to complete doctorate and master degrees.

Their research, from snow leopards to water systems, is about as varied as the countries they come from — Ghana, Bhutan, Zimbabwe, Mexico, China and the US.

Whatever the topic under the Environmental Sciences umbrella, the students agree CSU is the perfect fit.

Studying a PhD in Philosophy, Environmental Sciences, Theresa Groth from the US said the university's commitment to sustainability made her choice to come to Australia easy.

"The chance to do comparative research between Australia and the US was a huge draw," she said.

Researching how farmers and non-farmers identify themselves and how that influences their decisions on implementing practices, Ms Groth is looking forward to talking with local agriculturalists about their systems.

"I think there's a huge draw for living and working in another country for a couple of years," she said.

"It broadens your world view and it creates a better footing for you as you go forward."