

Augustana in Australia

Full-time Internships in Sydney, Australia

FAQs

Why should I participate in this program?

The *Augustana in Australia* program offers juniors and seniors of all majors the opportunity for professional and personal development. This program involves completing a full-time internship while living in an international city. During January-March each year, students intern in the lively and diverse city of Sydney. Students explore career paths and assimilate into a new culture through professional internships, an internship seminar, and engaging with the local community. Students gain independence while interning in a safe and supportive learning environment. They discern the next step on their professional path as they complete this experiential program.

How long have Augustana students been interning in Sydney?

Students have been interning in Sydney through the *Augustana in Australia* program since 2007. Over 300 students from all majors have taken advantage of professional and research opportunities that this program offers. Students of all majors intern for 30-35 hours per week in-country in individualized placements.

How should I apply for this international internship program?

All students will be notified of deadlines through email correspondence. Students apply for this program during winter term, one year prior to participation. They apply through the Augustana International and Off-Campus online application by the deadline in early January at www.augustana.edu/plus. Students pay a one-time partially refundable deposit of \$300 to the Augustana Business Office by the deadline in early January. Once approved by the International Office, students will complete the internship application process. Candidates need to stay current in meeting application deadlines to remain in the program. You also need to provide two letters of recommendation (one academic and one professional) during the application process.

Who is Augustana's partner organization in Sydney?

Augustana partners with CAPA International, a non-profit educational organization which specializes in internships in global cities for students from the USA. CAPA has a long history of working with undergraduate students to place them in individualized internships, and Augustana partners with them for internships in Sydney and London. Based upon a detail internship application, they will place each student in an internship which meets the student's learning objectives. CAPA provides program oversight, in-country orientation and support, housing, transportation passes, insurance, and student services. CAPA's mission focuses on personalized learning, cultural engagement, and academic rigor. From the USA, CAPA may be contacted at 1-800-793-0334 (non-emergency number).

Who should I contact in an emergency?

In an emergency, please contact Karen M. Petersen, Program Manager, *Augustana in Australia* at 309-794-7456 (office) or 563-320-7091 (mobile). You may also contact Dr. Allen Bertsche, Director of International and Off-Campus Programs at 309-794-8283 (office) or 309-912-8619 (mobile). They will contact CAPA on your behalf. You may also contact CAPA (USA) directly. IN AN EMERGENCY, from the

USA, 617-999-8126. IN AN EMERGENCY, from the USA, the CAPA Sydney Center may be reached 24/7 at 011-61-4-0550-6882.

What academic credit do I earn for this internship program?

Students will earn twelve (12) 300-level credits for this program. Nine (9) credits are earned for the 300-level internship plus a 3-credit 300-level learning community (paired) class: Credits in RELG327 Business Ethics (earn PH + G) or COMM330 Intercultural Communication (earn PH +G). You must be approved by your academic advisor, and possibly your major department to participate in this program. Students will earn academic credit for the internship and there are academic assignments to complete throughout the term. Some academic departments also grant departmental internship credit.

Does my major department need to approve my internship application?

Yes, each intern must receive the approval of his/her major academic advisor (and possibly the major department) in order to participate in this internship program per Augustana academic policy. If the major department withdraws support of the application, the applicant will be removed from the program roster.

How is this program different from Augustana's other study abroad programs?

On the *Augustana in Australia* program, each student completes a professional internship, based upon his/her learning objectives. Each intern will earn academic credit for the internship and there are academic assignments to complete throughout the term. On this program interns do not travel with Augustana faculty/staff; they travel independently. This program requires more professionalism on the part of each student; the intern is expected to provide value to the sponsor on a daily basis. The intern will be treated as a young professional by the internship sponsor. The intern must interview with the sponsor and independently take public transportation daily to the internship site. She/he must complete internship assignments with the oversight of a professional sponsor. Augustana faculty/staff will visit Sydney for a short time during the program to follow-up with students on their internship site and to assess the overall program. Currently the Augustana interns are supervised by their internship supervisor and CAPA International Education staff members.

Are any group excursions included in the program fee?

There are a number of program excursions that are subject to change each year. Excursions may include: 1) Bus tour of Sydney, 2) Day trip to UNESCO World Heritage Site Greater Blue Mountains, and 3) Sydney Harbour Cruise.

Do I need a passport and travel visa in order to participate in this program?

Yes, in order to participate in this program, each student must have a valid passport and travel visa good for six months after the return date. Each student pays the fees for his/her passport and travel visa and is responsible for the documents. International students studying at Augustana may be accepted into this program, and must own a current passport and obtain their travel visa to Australia. Students will receive some assistance in obtaining their travel visa.

Is there associated coursework to be completed while interning overseas?

Yes, this is an academic internship program, and academic assignments will be completed. A 5-week seminar is held prior to departure to Sydney. All assignments must be completed and are part of the internship grade.

How does this program help me prepare professionally for the internship?

For your internship application, you will have assistance from the Career Development office to develop your résumé and cover letter. You will also learn about obtaining professional letters of recommendation. During the five week internship pre-departure internship seminar, you will receive internship and professional development, including practice interviewing, assessing your strengths and weaknesses, and writing internship learning objectives. You will learn how to be successful on the internship. In Australia, you will deepen your understanding of a successful internship with cultural engagement during the in-country internship orientation.

Where will I live?

You will live in shared flats in safe locations throughout Sydney which are located no more than a 60-minute commute via public transportation from your internship site. You will be provided with air conditioning, single bed / bunk beds; a place to store clothes (shelves or a closet); access to a kitchen equipped with basic cookware and utensils (this may be within the individual unit or within the building, and shared with other students); a bathroom with shower (this may be within the individual unit or within the building, and shared with other students).

Who will I live with?

You will live in shared flats with up to 7 other Augustana students of the same sex, depending upon the size of the flat. Generally there will be two students per bedroom. Augustana students select their own roommates based up program participants. In past programs, 2-4 Augustana students have shared individual flats.

Is the electricity the same as in North America?

No, the voltage in Australia is 240 vs. the voltage in the USA, 120. You should bring plug adapters and voltage converters to Sydney, or you may purchase them in Sydney.

When will I find out about where I will be living?

You will receive specific, detailed information about your residence no later than 14 days prior to the program's start. You will have comprehensive directions of how to get to the within two weeks of the program's start.

What is the work-week like in Sydney?

The program is subject to change, but generally students intern for 8 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Interning on Friday is optional. Interns will take public transportation (bus, train, ferry) to get to the internship site. Most students work a traditional 8 am to 5 pm day; however, some internships require night or weekend hours. Internships in some industries such as sports management and event planning generally do not follow a typical 8 am – 5 pm daily schedule.

What are the dates of the program?

The program dates change each year based upon the academic calendar and needs of employers. For 2015-16, program dates are from January 11 through March 5, 2015. Students must be on site in the housing no later than the morning of January 13, 2015.

Are the internships paid?

No, none of the interns in Sydney are paid through the *Augustana in Australia* program. All internships are non-paying. Students often use their *Augie Choice* award to cover expenses while living in Sydney.

How does the internship placement process work?

In order to be placed in an internship, each applicant must complete a comprehensive internship application. This application includes a detailed description of the type of internship and learning objectives that you are seeking. You will provide a résumé, cover letter, unofficial transcript, background check, and two letters of recommendation. The in-country sponsor will conduct a cursory interview with the intern by Skype prior to the internship or when the intern arrives in country.

How much does this program cost?

The tuition and program fee for winter term in 2014-15 is \$18,510. Your financial aid will be deducted from this amount. You may also utilize other scholarships and awards such as Augie Choice. For example, in 2014-15, the average Augustana student paid just over \$10,000 to participate in this program without the use of *Augie Choice*. If the student uses *Augie Choice*, it reduces the cost by \$2,000. That means that average winter term fees were just over \$8,000. This included round-trip airfare from Chicago to Sydney, shared housing in the Sydney area, local transportation in Sydney (bus and train), health and travel insurance, winter term Augustana tuition, internship placement and oversight, supervision by CAPA International Education staff, and 24/7 access to Student Services and Assistance.

Does my financial aid work for this program?

Yes, as this program is sponsored by Augustana College, all financial aid which you would receive on campus is available to you on this program. Program fees (to pay for airfare, housing, etc.) must be covered by each participant. Please contact the Financial Assistance Office for your own personal financial plan. This program is approved for the use of *Augie Choice*. A separate application and approval is required for *Augie Choice*.

How will I get to my internship and to my internship class each day? How will I travel around the city?

Like many Australians, you will walk, ride the train, or take a local bus. You will receive you more specific information about the closest public transportation route to your internship placement and seminar at the in-country orientation. You will be provided with an Opal card, a public transportation ticket for the trains and buses at orientation. An Opal card will get you almost everywhere you need to go.

How many weeks will I be in country? Each year is different based upon costs and the academic calendar. In 2015-16, you will be in-country for the internship program for 8 weeks. Group travel is recommended prior to the beginning of the internship orientation which begins on January 13, 2015.

What is the application deadline?

The Office of International and Off-Campus Programs determines initial deadlines for program application. Be sure to adhere to those deadlines. The *Augustana in Australia* program sets deadlines for internship placement application which must be followed. Notifications of deadlines will be provided through email.

Will my coursework fulfill Augustana requirements?

The coursework for this program fulfills the following requirements:

- 1) 300 level credits (up to 12)
- 2) Learning Community requirement
- 3) PH + G learning perspective/suffix

How do I get to Sydney?

You will travel to the country on Augustana's group airfare or with a smaller group of your choosing. Phi Beta Dingo (Australian travel agency) offers an optional winter term travel opportunity to help students interested in visiting New Zealand save on airfare and see both the north and south islands of New Zealand in a smaller group. This travel will occur immediately before your internship orientation in Australia begins. You will arrive at the flats the morning of January 13, 2016. If interested in participating in the Phi Beta Dingo trip to New Zealand, students will be provided with program details and pricing the Spring Term before Australia Term.

May I receive my *Augie Choice* award for this program?

Yes, this program is approved for *Augie Choice*, which provides the opportunity for experiences that will make each intern stand out when starting careers or going to graduate school. For this program, students of junior or senior standing receive \$2,000 to support a qualifying hands-on internship. Each student must complete the full application in order to be considered for the award. *Augie Choice* checks will be distributed to students prior to the beginning of the internship.

How do I find the off-campus program that works best for me?

Augustana College offers a diverse offering of programs where students can participate for the entire trimester, during summer term, and on a short-term basis (over breaks). Opportunities are provided internationally and within the USA. Programs include internships in Australia, London, Denver, and Washington DC. Study abroad opportunities are available in France, Brazil, Cambodia, Ireland, Spain, Nicaragua, Germany, and Ghana. Additional programs are offered within the USA in Holden Village, Denver, Washington DC, and other locations. Check the Augustana website for current information on Augustana's International and Off-campus programs; contact Director Allen Bertsche with any questions.

<http://www.augustana.edu/academics/international-programs/frequently-asked-questions>