Sydney Semester Internship
Course Information

Students participating in the Sydney Semester Internship will be in their placements four days per week and in class one day each week. The coursework is comprised of four courses and will be led by Sydney-area university lecturers. Listed below are descriptions of the courses that students will complete during the program.

**Work and Thought in Action: Academic Project and Internship**
SYDI INPR 410 – 4 semester hours of credit
The Academic Project is the core assessment component of the workplace experience. The outcome of this component is a major piece of written work that is planned, researched and prepared during the course of the internship. Ideally, it should link, in some way, the work that the student is engaged in at the workplace, with academic work the students is undertaking while in Australia. It may also link to prior studies. An academic supervisor is provided for each student. The student will see their supervisor several times throughout the course of the program. This project is presented and defended during the final week’s oral presentation.

**Workplace Realities: Politics, Culture, Ideas**
SYDI SOSM 360 – 4 semester hours of credit
This course has been developed as the central focus of the Internship Program. It brings together, through a series of city-based seminars and a trip to the remote northwest region of Australia, some of the issues that are addressed throughout the internship program. The course looks at a diverse range of business types including corporate, government, and community and not-for-profit organisations. It focuses on exposure to the realities of the working world with discussions covering issues such as business, ethics, gender roles, global position, socio-political influences, business objectives, social responsibilities and best practice. The course includes an examination of best-practice business models, giving the student the opportunity to better understand the contemporary issues in professional life including dress codes, business etiquette and networking. Seminars will take place at the workplace concerned, providing exposure to a context that will foster comparative, critical and analytical thinking.

**Australian Issues: History, Culture and Place**
SYDI ANAU 360 – 4 semester hours of credit
This course is a multi-disciplinary course which provides students with an introduction to Australian society past and present. Students will consider the major social, political, and cultural themes of contemporary Australian society and how they have been shaped by past policies and practice. Of particular importance will be the question of human rights for Indigenous people, for those seeking asylum in Australia, and for marginalized groups excluded from accessing their share of the spoils from the “lucky country”. Australia’s position as a leading country in the human development indicators stands in stark contrast to our treatment of Indigenous people, politically and legally.

Australia’s perceived role within global politics will also be a useful comparison to other political and cultural global trends particularly in light of the war in Iraq. There will also be an opportunity for students to consider comparisons between Australian Indigenous people and Indigenous people elsewhere in the world.

**Australia in the Region: Inter-Cultural Relevance and Economic and Social Perspectives**
SYDI SOAU 361 – 4 semester hours of credit
This course has been developed to allow students to survey and explore differences in cultural values across the Asian-Australian region. The course is multi-disciplinary in nature. It focuses on perceptions, stereotypes, sets of socio-cultural values such as Confucianism, and how they are affected by urbanization, modernization, internationalization and the growth of cyberspace. The course includes an examination of the theory and practice of inter-cultural understanding that provides students with the opportunity to better understand some contemporary issues in the region, such as those entailing different conceptions of human rights, the role of the media and acceptable cultural mores. A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be employed.

The course is made relevant by accelerated trends towards internationalization, including the increased mobility of peoples, the growth of a global “pop” culture and the rapid development of communication technologies. Asia is increasingly important as the focus of these developments as is evidences through the growth in importance of Asian economies in the 21st century and by the accelerating role of Asian states in international affairs.