

Knighly Adventures Abroad

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Sydney, Australia



Complete this Sentence:
If I could do it over, I
would...
only buy a one-way plane
ticket.

Major(s): Economics,
Business Administration

Years/Term Abroad: Summer 2009

I chose the Internship in Sydney program through CCSA. The program enables terrific work, resume, and networking experience. While the program is based around your internship, the work does not suffocate you. You have Fridays off to explore Sydney and other Australian cities – I visited Melbourne, Canberra (capital), and Cairns (Great Barrier Reef).

I lived in the Village at MacQuarie University, which is essentially a group of houses comprised of five people per house. I lived with students attending MacQuarie, which was great as it enabled more friendships and exposure to cultural differences.

My best memory is truly the whole experience in general: I ate exotic foods, experienced Australian sports (Aussie rules football games are tremendous!), went to an Opera at the Opera House, explored the Great Barrier Reef, mingled with the Aussie ladies, and simply had the best time of my life.

The experience has enriched my Bellarmine educational experience by providing perspective. Sydney is extremely rich in diversity, and the exposure to diverse backgrounds and ways of thought changed my approach and views of various aspects.

The greatest challenge was the work. Australia has a much flatter work hierarchy than America, which means that you are expected to be an important and contributing member of the company – making copies all day and retrieving lunch for your supervisor is NOT in the job.

Culture Shock never really arose, as Australian culture is extremely similar to American culture. Only very small differences are present, in my opinion, so Culture Shock was not an issue.

After going abroad, I wish everyone could experience what I experienced in Sydney. Going abroad enables memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I distinctly remember the words of the CEO of my company on my last day: “Keep in touch. You will always have friends at AIEx.”

Advice to future study abroad
participants:
Do anything and everything
[legal]



You will never regret venturing abroad. Approach with an open mind; engage with a sense of the now; recall the excitement with the abundance of memories.